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SEVEN  DAYSIES



THE LOCALS' GUIDE TO VERMONT



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ALL THE BEST

SEVEN DAYSIES

Welcome to the Daysies, the local's guide to the best of Vermont, brought to you by Seven Days. This special issue is devoted to editors' picks for the best places to eat, drink, shop, get outside, be entertained and, well, pretty much everything else. Whether you live here or are just visiting, consider this the inside scoop on doing as the locals do.

In the 14th year of the Daysies, we knew we had to really bring it. You know what they say: Go big or go home. Being an all-weekly, we decided to go...gnome. After all, the Daysies are already a pretty huge endeavor: 1243 people cast 676,515 individual votes in 168 categories. It takes an elite team of bearded scribes to pull this thing off every year, gnome sayin'?

And garden gnomes are cute and fun.

To keep things fresh as a Daysie, we welcomed some new categories this year and worded out some old ones.

After much deliberation, we retained our media section. Every year we take your write-in nominations—that's right, all of them! Over time, it became clear that voters were confusingly several of the media categories. So we revamped that content and merged it with the services section. That doesn't mean Tom Messner, perennial winner for best meteorologist, doesn't hold a special place in our hearts.

As the media section always made obvious, it's not just places that make Vermont special—it's the people here, too. So there's another surprise inside this issue: our own Daysies picks for 10 "greatest Vermont heroes." Got it? These are notable locals whom we know and love and think you should know as well. Can you spot the gnome hiding in each of their photos?

Lets get down to the nitty-gritty Daysies details. Arriving at the winners took two rounds of voting. First, folks wrote in their favorites for everything from best museum to main/side, best day hike to dive bar. Second, we tallied the votes, selected the top finalists in each category and asked readers to vote again. Good thing everyone loves multiple choice.

A note about the "Quisque Oritendend County" sections: In Vermont, the largest population is inside Chittenden County, so it's tough for anyone outside of it to top the Burlington area (unless the category involves mountains). But in some instances, the swell of votes for places not in Chittenden County justified separating the category. So that's what that means.

As always, there were plenty of bombastic winners. Who snagged the coveted best new restaurant award? To which vocalist did Grace Potter pass the torch? Head on to find out.

Thanks to Seven Days readers for voting, and congrats to all the Daysies winners! Because of you, there's no place like gnome—or home.

CAROLYN FOX



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FOOD

Vermonters' **enthusiasm for food** was evident even in their Gaynes votes. Rather than simply nominating Burlington's ArtsRat for best burger and those voters got specific, gushing about its 400 Burger and truffle fries. (Also the fish tacos at Manhattan Pizza & Pub and the chocolate creamness at Josh's Snack Bar. It made tallying votes kind of a bitch, but hey. At least we know what we're ordering next time we go out to eat.)

The 43 categories that follow are designed to point you in the right direction too, whether you're hankering for breakfast, lunch, dinner or dessert. Vermont's food scene encompasses everything from innovative farm-to-table dining to groupie-to-night-life popular among the rule-givers crowd, so you'll find a vegetable smoothiestand here. Looking for the best Thai food? The best food truck? We present you with some tasty options.

Chefs and restaurateurs are always coming and going, making the Gaynes food section the most dynamic. New winners popped up in categories such as best comfort food, best vegetarian fare and best restaurant for dessert. That last one is new to the Gaynes this year and Burlington mainstay Moxie's Café earned the inaugural win. We're pretty sure its decadent German chocolate cake had something to do with it. There's no denying it. We're all lucky to have a seat at this table.



BEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

GREEN GODDESS CAFÉ

First things first: Green Goddess Café is not a by-the-book vegetarian restaurant. Its menu offers breakfasts built around sunny eggs and peppery maple bacon. And the Cuban sandwich stacked with long-roasted pork and slabs of smoky ham is a favorite. At lunch, too, Green Goddess vegetarian fare is more than just an afterthought: via pine fresh baked, griddled toast, oozing with pesto and melty mozzarella, leafy greens and avocados — or a springy Asian salad heaped with crisp summer veggies and fresh chicken noodles. And with many items now packaged in grab-and-go format, at the café's new takeout counter, Green Goddess is a winning choice for everyone.

635 S. Main St., Stearns, 253-5255
- greengoddessvt.com

BEST NEW RESTAURANT (OPENED IN LAST YEAR)

Barnyard Wood Crafted Pizze

The aptly named Barnyard — run by members of the pretty Handy family — brings new South West to the table in the shape of wood-fired pizzas, delicious sandwiches and burgers. Many of the ingredients had been local products. [305 William Rd., South Burlington, 495-506-1340; barnyardvt.com]

Other finalists:

- **Eden de Margot**, 128 College St., Burlington, 813-5322 • edenrestaurant.com
- **Doc Pizella**, 254 Main St., St. Albans, 563-6669 • docpizella.com
- **Down Home Kitchen**, 180 Main St., Montpelier, 225-6035 • downhomekitchenvt.com
- **The Spice Kitchen**, 213 Main St., Winooski, 534-1806 • spicetownrestaurant.com

BEST RESTAURANT

Hen of the Wood

With locations in a former gas mill and in the elegant Hotel Vermont, one of the Vermont's best kept secrets, Hen of the Wood is a creative farm-to-table restaurant. [35 Cherry St., Burlington, 540-0534 • 52 Shaw St., Waterbury, 244-7322 • henofthewood.com]

Other finalists:

- **The Farmhouse Tap & Grill**, 140 Bank St., Burlington, 858-8951 • farmhousevt.com
- **Leavitt House & Cafe**, 115 Church St., Burlington, 854-3755 • leavitthouse.com
- **Henry Lewis Co.**, 48 Main St., Winooski, 497-3385 • henrylewis.com
- **The Windermere Restaurant**, 1076 Trafalgar Rd., South Burlington, 862-6395 • windermerehotel.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Prohibition Pig

This restaurant had big plans to fill when it opened under one of the names of the Alcohol Prohibition. With barbecue "porker" cocktails and one of the biggest craft beer selections in New England, The Pig Bar was a hit from the beginning, giving the community an excellent excuse to "prohib" [225 S. Main St., Waterbury, 244-4300 • prohibitionpig.com]

Other finalists:

- **Blue Pacific Eatery**, 375 Route 3, South Hero, 225-4754 • bluepacificbar.com
- **Kismet**, 52 South St., Montpelier, 225-6546 • kismetvt.com
- **Melrose on the Hill**, 49 E. Route 180, Waterbury, 244-3478 • melroseonthehill.com

BEST CHEF

Eric Warnstedt (Hen of the Wood)

This seven-time nominee for the James Beard Award for best chef in the Northeast camp, his passion with barbecue has propelled him to first — and first [35 Cherry St., Burlington, 540-0534 • 52 Shaw St., Waterbury, 244-7322 • henofthewood.com]

Other finalists:

- **James Androsky and Nathan Wade (Henry Lewis Co.)**, 48 Main St., Winooski, 497-3385 • henrylewis.com
- **Samuel Collins (Leavitt House & Cafe)**, 115 Church St., Burlington, 854-3755 • leavitthouse.com
- **George Lamberton (Arndt)**, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 540-0436 • arndt.com
- **Frankie Bright (Blue Pacific Eatery)**, 375 Route 3, South Hero, 225-4754 • bluepacificbar.com

BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

American Flatbread Burlington Hearth

With large and small portions and the option only to split toppings, these flatbreads — including farmers in a central wood-fired oven — are perfect for all ages sharing. [115 St. Paul St., Burlington, 862-2668 • americanflatbread.com]

Other finalists:

- **Blackbird Barbecue**, 317 Rivermont Ave., Burlington, 444-3630 • blackbirdbbq.com
- **The Farmhouse Tap & Grill**, 140 Bank St., Burlington, 858-8951 • farmhousevt.com
- **The Dining Parlor**, 80 Lake St., Burlington, 540-0988 • thediningparlor.com
- **Johnson St. Homebrew KUL**, 609-277-9785 • thekitchen.com
- **The Village Inn Restaurant**, 1036 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 812-6385 • villageinnrestaurant.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge

Crafty upstairs and in the back, the place provides family entertainment at the pizza, pizza and draft joint. Friendly service is a key, making menu and game night make sure there's never a dull moment. [2895 Pleasant Rd., Waterbury, 244-6144 • picassopizzeria.com]

Other finalists:

- **Doc Pizella**, 254 Main St., St. Albans, 563-6669 • docpizella.com
- **Wayne's Barbecue, Bakery & Creamery**, 1075 Route 362, Montpelier, 225-6813 • waynesbar.com

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Teagan, Tom, Topher, Tori**

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prohibitionpig.com



FOOD

BEST RESTAURANT FOR DESSERT*

Mirabeilles Café

A bakery, some guests feel cravily alone, some don't. Mirabeilles Café is a bakery, some guests feel cravily alone, some don't. Mirabeilles Café is a bakery, some guests feel cravily alone, some don't.

Other favorites:

- Hen of the Wood:** 11 Cherry St., Burlington, 540-0334 • 11 Cherry St., Wethersfield, 246-7330 • henofthewood.com
- Louisa's Bakery & Café:** 111 Church St., Burlington, 863-0358 • louisasbakery.com
- The Bakery Pancakes:** 401 Lake St., Burlington, 540-0388 • 80 Main St., Montpelier, 262-2253 • 1 Livingston St., Hanover, N.H., 863-277-9715 • thebakerypancakes.com
- Tazzetta Breads:** 151 St. Paul St., Burlington, 884-3252 • tazzettabreads.com

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Penny Clause Café

Long, luscious eggs fried that's worth the wait. A solid breakfast menu, offering breakfast sandwiches, fruit, smoothies and pastries. Full of deliciousness to name a few. (Penny Clause Café, Burlington, 863-8934 • pennyclause.com)

Other favorites:

- Maple Grove Bakery:** 111 Union Lane, Burlington, 846-7444 • maplegrovebakery.com
- Knoxville Café:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 863-2024 • knoxvillecafe.com
- Louisa's Bakery:** 21 Main St., Wethersfield, 455-5061 • louisasbakery.com
- The Spring House Café and Bakery:** 11 Cherry St., Burlington, 448-3951 • the-springhouse.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

158 Main Restaurant & Bakery

Breakfast is only on the weekend, but the daily breakfast menu, served 7 AM to 11 AM, is a delicious treat. Most restaurants, however, from breakfast to dinner, 11 AM to 11 PM, are open. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and beverages. (158 Main St., Jeffersonville, 866-870-1200 • 158main.com)

Other favorites:

- Down Home Kitchen:** 100 Main St., Montpelier, 265-4655 • downhomekitchen.com
- Belmont:** 111 Main St., Montpelier, 265-4646 • belmontkitchen.com

BEST LUNCH

The Farmhouse Tap & Grill

Burgers and farm-to-table lunch classics ranging from fish and chips to burgers and fries. The menu is daily, mostly in the way of sandwiches, but the best bet is to go to the taproom. (The Farmhouse Tap & Grill, Burlington, 863-0388 • thefarmhouse.com)

Other favorites:

- Louisa's Bakery & Café:** 111 Church St., Burlington, 863-0358 • louisasbakery.com
- Penny Clause Café:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 863-8934 • pennyclause.com
- Café and 50th Street:** 271 College St., Burlington, 862-7616 • cafesand50th.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Prohibition Pig

This downtown restaurant serves the craft beer loving crowd, mostly in the way of sandwiches, but the best bet is to go to the taproom. (Prohibition Pig, Burlington, 863-0388 • prohibitionpig.com)

Other favorites:

- Pennsylvania Kitchen & Lounge:** 100 Main St., Burlington, 863-0388 • pennsylvania.com
- Whisper Kitchen:** 101 Main St., Montpelier, 265-4646 • whisperkitchen.com

BEST PLACE TO GET LAKE-NIGHT FOOD

Kountry Kart Deli

For the most part, a Philly cheesesteak is the only thing you can get here. But the menu is full of other things, mostly in the way of sandwiches, but the best bet is to go to the taproom. (Kountry Kart Deli, Burlington, 864-4008 • kountrykartdeli.com)

Other favorites:

- André's Kitchen Deli:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 863-0388 • andreaskitchen.com
- St. George Tavern:** 111 Church St., Burlington, 863-0388 • stgeorgetavern.com
- McNulty's Deli:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • mcnultysdeli.com
- McNulty's Deli:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • mcnultysdeli.com

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

Splash at the Boathouse

Swimming, water, food, and a view of the lake. The menu is full of other things, mostly in the way of sandwiches, but the best bet is to go to the taproom. (Splash at the Boathouse, Burlington, 863-0388 • splashattheboathouse.com)

Other favorites:

- Brookside Café & Grill:** 111 Church St., Burlington, 863-0388 • brooksidecafe.com
- The Farmhouse Tap & Grill:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 863-0388 • thefarmhouse.com
- Louisa's Bakery & Café:** 111 Church St., Burlington, 863-0358 • louisasbakery.com
- The Bakery Pancakes:** 401 Lake St., Burlington, 540-0388 • 80 Main St., Montpelier, 262-2253 • thebakerypancakes.com



BEST RESTAURANT SERVICE

Hen of the Wood

The restaurant's menu, a carefully selected selection of local and seasonal ingredients, is the perfect complement to the service. (Hen of the Wood, Burlington, 863-0388 • henofthewood.com)

Other favorites:

- The Farmhouse Tap & Grill:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 863-0388 • thefarmhouse.com
- Louisa's Bakery & Café:** 111 Church St., Burlington, 863-0358 • louisasbakery.com
- Henry Lane Café:** 45 Main St., Wethersfield, 455-5061 • henrylane.com
- Traveller's Deli:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • travellersdeli.com

BEST PLACE TO GRAB A QUICK MEAL

Al's French Fry

The restaurant's menu, a carefully selected selection of local and seasonal ingredients, is the perfect complement to the service. (Al's French Fry, Burlington, 863-0388 • alsfrenchfry.com)

Other favorites:

- Bacon:** 101 Church St., Burlington, 864-4008 • 101 Main St., Hanover, N.H., 863-277-9715 • bacon.com
- City Market:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • citymarket.com
- New Haven Deli:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • newhaven.com
- City Market:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • citymarket.com
- City Market:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 864-4008 • citymarket.com

BEST STEAK

GUILD TAVERN

The folks at the Farmhouse Tap & Grill are a group of people who love to eat. They did it at the Farmhouse Tap & Grill at Burlington Bank Street, which used to be a McDonald's, and at Guild Tavern, formerly a Ground Round. At the Tavern, chef owner Philip Clayton offers up classic steakhouse fare — such as rib eye with béarnaise and steak sauce accompanied by butter-milk whipped potatoes and onion rings — using ingredients sourced from local farms. While waiting for your steak, chaser from the selection of classic cocktails, such as a gin, brandy and vermouth concoction from the 1930s called Wardway, or try out the bartender's original takes on modern mixology. (1633 Winston Rd., South Burlington, 867-1207 • guildtavern.com)



Tiny Thai Restaurant



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FOOD

BEST PLACE TO EAT ALONE

City Market/ Onion River Co-op

Front on your sundries, salad bar and in the separate eating area at the back of the market while enjoying some of the best people watching around. Chances are you'll find a someone you know in customer (there are school buses) too. (301 S. Wisconsin Ave., Burlington, 803-670-0100 • citymarket.coop)

Other finds:

- **Old Dangle Toga's & Cantina**, 190 Bank St., Burlington, 803-367-7667 • olddangle.com
- **Loring's Bakes & Cafe**, 151 Church St., Burlington, 803-373-3131 • loringbakery.com
- **New Peaks Cafe**, 138 Cherry St., Burlington, 803-558-9999 • newpeaks.com
- **Zakley and Lily's Green Group**, 291 College St., Burlington, 803-760-1131 • zakleyandlily.com

BEST LOCALLY OWNED GROCERY STORE

City Market/Onion River Co-op

Has co-op items to welcome of every ethnicity with local organic and conventional foods. Think out the bulk section (301 S. Wisconsin Ave., Burlington, 803-670-0100 • citymarket.coop)

Other finds:

- **Healthy Living Market and Cafe**, 232 Church St., South Burlington, 803-658-1545 • healthylivingmarket.com
- **Shaw's Supermarket**, 50 Shelburne Shopping Park, Shelburne, 803-875-3131
- **Staten's Green Market**, 271 Union Hwy. Suite 103, Union Junction, 803-768-8181 • statedgreenmarket.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY Hunger Mountain Coop

Hunger's top for healthy choices offers a wide selection of locally sourced produce and goods. From eggs to salads, to dried cereals, all available or enjoy the live wine live music. (103 State College Hwy., Hungerford, 803-832-1133 • hungermountaincoop.org)

Other finds:

- **Commonwealth Natural Market**, 552 Mountain Rd., Stowe, Vt. 573-4441 • commonwealthnaturalmarket.com
- **The Farm Store**, 143 Main St., Jeffersonville, 803-443-1100 • thefarmstorevt.com
- **The Mountain Market**, 11 School St., Montpelier, 803-763-1131 • thecommonmarketvt.com



Ren Weiner

Age: 30

Occupation: Coworker, Miss Weiner

Town: Windsor

Most people know Ren Weiner for his doughnuts, which she delivers each weekend to local spots such as Scout & Co. and Pongola Cafe & Eatery. The grocery food trucks come stuffed with fresh berries or sour cherries or maybe a few loaves of homemade croissants, croquet hoties or other loaves. Weiner bakes each batch with local and organic ingredients, fermented slowly for two days.

The doughnuts have a heavy following, but Weiner says her yield is production as a way to support and subsidize her real mission — which doesn't pay the bills. The food trucks, which support and subsidize her real mission — which doesn't pay the bills. The food trucks, which support and subsidize her real mission — which doesn't pay the bills.

In 2013, she founded Foodlight, a community with focus on exploring local food issues. She sits on the board of Slow Food Vermont and organizes meetings and workshops examining food waste, labor access and other concerns. In the past year, she's held bake sales for local donated goods to the Pride Center of Vermont, the Tibetan Army State People's Movement and Vermont's president in a campaign against it here. She regularly mentors young people — in cooking and food and agricultural careers — at local schools and colleges.

As a local business owner, Weiner sees eating as a collaboration of farmers, cooks, organizations and communities. In her mind, food is a way to fuel social, economic and agricultural change — and serving meals is a way to serve others. But she could take better than that?

Local summer event: Possibilities from Adam's Berry Farm in Charlotte.

Favorite picnic spot: Grand and Puget, Thetford in Dover.

Underappreciated community service organization: The Good Food Truck and its planning committee.

Burlington High School's Fork in the Road food truck and Food Light's school garden program that Sarah Huxtable is working on, and the Vermont Community Garden Network.

How to eat like a pro at the farmers market: Get a bacon hot dog at Maple Street's Island, wrap it in a chicken pancake from Green Mountain Pot Stickers, and top it off with a nut from Sababana, microgreens and flowers from Half Pint Farm and a basket from Digging North. Wash it down with an iced burger shot from the Juice Bar. Then drink a Northern Italy coffee and call it a day.

HANNAH PALMER EGAN

BEST FARMERS MARKET VENDOR

Doughnut Dilemma

These artisanal doughnuts are so popular, bakers in the Burlington area often have to wait a week or two for Burlington customers to get their hands on them. (301 S. Wisconsin Ave., Burlington, 803-670-0100 • doughnutdilemma.com)

Other finds:

- **Barle Bakery**, 181 N. Wisconsin Ave., Burlington, 803-670-0100 • barlebakery.com
- **Bread Loop**, 1003 Route 108, Postville, 803-324-1100 • breadloop.com
- **Half Pint Farm**, 182 Interstate Rd., Burlington, 803-670-0100 • halfpintfarm.com
- **Shaw's Super Market**, 50 Shelburne St., Burlington, 803-875-3131 • shawssupermarket.com

BEST FOOD TRUCK

Beannie's Bus

This extended school bus pulled up to Barre in 1954 — well before the current food truck scene. At Rutledge Park, the mobile eatery serves the best, best, best burgers, fries and chicken. (Rutledge Park, Barre • beanniesbus.com)

Other finds:

- **Burger Bus**, Cambridge, 320-3900 • burgerbus.com
- **Delia's Vt**, Burlington, 304-670-0100 • deliasvt.com
- **The Doughnut Dilemma**, 301 S. Wisconsin Ave., Burlington, 803-670-0100 • doughnutdilemma.com
- **Luxy's Farm**, Burlington, 803-670-0100 • luxysfarm.com





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FOOD

BEST FOOD CART

Hong's Chinese Dumplings

Reminiscent of the long line of street vendors under their high awnings under the overhanging balconies and awnings, dumplings, 20 Church St., Burlington (804-600-1188) hongspapery.com

Other food carts:

- **The Dumpling Bar:** 1148 St., Burlington, 540-0100 thepapery.com
- **The Sipping Peas:** Burlington, 540-0100 sippingpeas.com
- **South End Bakery:** 120 Church St., Burlington, 349-0205 southendbakery.com
- **Face Garden:** Church Street, Burlington, 349-1051 facegardenburlington.com

BEST BREAD BAKERY

Red Hen Baking Co.

Watch the loaves escape 10 levels of artisan loaves, those pointy-topped pastries made with a yeast sourced from within 150 miles. You can get breakfast lunch or the full fare. 1000 Baker St., Montreal, 551-5000 redhenbaking.com

Other bakeries:

- **August Fine Bakery & Cafe:** 145 S. Champlain St., Burlington, 540-0202 augustfinebakery.com
- **Bread Harvest Bread Co.:** 203 Pine St., Burlington, 660-0100 breadharvestburlington.com
- **Kilgus's Bread Company:** 10 Farrell St., South Burlington, 468-4332 kilgusbread.com
- **El Bread Bakery:** 352 Fairview Lane, Shelburne, 548-8771 elbread.com

BEST SWEETS BAKERY

Mirabelle's Café

Homemade pastries, tarts, cakes and pies, as well as specialty beverages and lunch specials, along with this bakery cafe. The 1,000-sq-ft, truly French-style, the French chocolate cake to die for. 101 Main St., Burlington, 540-3004 mirabellecafe.com

Other bakeries:

- **August Fine Bakery & Cafe:** 145 S. Champlain St., Burlington, 540-0202 augustfinebakery.com
- **Bread Harvest Bread Co.:** 203 Pine St., Burlington, 660-0100 breadharvestburlington.com
- **Chaplin's New Café & Bakery:** 202 Church St., Suite 7, Williston, 878-5124 202churchst.com
- **My Little Cupcake:** 210 College St., Burlington, 540-3332 mylittlecupcake.com
- **Chaplin's New Café & Bakery:** 202 Church St., Suite 7, Williston, 878-5124 mylittlecupcake.com

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

Tiny Thai Restaurant

The donuts here — including papaya salad, tom kha, green chicken and lemongrass stir-fry — take their name from the tiny Thai food carts and street stalls. Ask for the authentic Thai style. 124 Main St., Williston, 855-4849 tinythaiburlington.com

Other Thai restaurants:

- **East West Café:** 216 Williston Ave., Burlington, 542-5100 eastwest.com
- **Royal Grande Thai Restaurant:** 78 Elm St., Montpelier, 523-0430 royalgrandethai.com
- **Spice Thai:** 21 Essex Village Dr., Essex, VT, 878-2199 spicethai.com
- **Thai House Restaurant:** 333 Swanton Rd., St. Albans, 324-0200 thaihouse.com

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

SPLASH AT THE BOATHOUSE

Plenty of Burlington eateries offer al fresco dining, but only one lets you eat on the lake. Literally. At Burlington's Splash at the Boathouse, the outdoor seating is located on a floating dock. You can enjoy the view of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks while eating a lobster Cobb salad, some Malibu Rum-coconut shrimp or fish tacos. Splash is also an event space hosting weddings, dance classes and business meetings. Whatever brings you there, watching the sunset over the water as you dine is an unparalleled experience. Arriving by boat? No problem. There are slips for that.

2 College St., Burlington • 802-2244 splashattheboathouse.com

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT

A Single Pebble

The only sign of General Tso's this authentic Asian eatery. Chef Dariusz Dzwil's tasting menu is the best lunch and dinner. 133 Bank St., Burlington, 863-3323 asinglepebble.com

Other Chinese:

- **Chai's Restaurant:** 300 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 545-5258 chaisrestaurant.com
- **Joyce's House of Noodles:** 55 Cambridge St., Essex Junction, 208-1828 joyceshouseofnoodles.com
- **Silver Palace:** 333 Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, 864-3025 silverpalacevt.com
- **San Garden:** 11 Vermont St., South Burlington, 842-4845 santogarden.com

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

El Cortijo Taqueria Y Cantina

This taqueria is from the team behind the Greenhouse Tap & Grill, known locally for inspired tacos, burritos and drinks along with "told me" margaritas. Grab your takeout online. 1495 Park St., Burlington, 477-8805 elcortijo.com

Other Mexican:

- **Gracias Cantina:** 168 Church St., Burlington, 548-3035 graciascantina.com
- **Don Pepe's:** 27 Village Sq., Northford, 476-3237 101MainSt.com
- **Mexican Grill & Cantina:** 210 Shelburne St., Suite 102, Maple View Plaza, Shelburne, 578-1407 mexicogrill.com

Lake Champlain
BROOKLATES

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- Sandwiches \$4.99 (includes 10" sub)
- Sandwiches \$3.99 (includes 8" sub)
- Sandwiches \$2.99 (includes 6" sub)
- Sandwiches \$1.99 (includes 4" sub)
- Sandwiches \$1.49 (includes 3" sub)
- Sandwiches \$0.99 (includes 2" sub)

Open 8am-4pm Mon-Fri and 7am-4pm on Sundays
1646 Williston Rd., South Burlington (next to Gader's)
www.thebagelplacevt.com • 802-489-3058



FOOD

BEST VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

Pho Hong

The pho is the thing at this family-owned eatery. Don't be fooled, though! The like Hanoi-style soups, stuffed with shrimp, pork and chicken. [305 N. Woodside Ave., Burlington, 815-463-0000]

Other finalists:

- **M Saigon Vietnamese Kitchen** 302 S. Burlington Rd., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Pho Capital** 807 State St., Montpelier, 802-232-3100
- **Pho Sang Vietnamese Eatery** 215 Main St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Pho Sang Vietnamese Restaurant** 11 Park St., Colton Junction, 879-6085

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Trattoria Della

A romantic, rustic gastro setting and award-winning wine list distinguishes this Italian restaurant. Try specialties such as osso buco, squid ink spaghetti or veal bresaola. [732 St. Paul St., Burlington, 879-6085

Other finalists:

- **Amelia's Italian** 85 S. Park St., Colchester, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100

BEST VEGETARIAN FARE

A Single Pebble

This authentic, creative restaurant cooks up a menu made of local, healthy, organic ingredients when there's time. Try the organic, locally sourced, locally sourced, locally sourced. [123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000

Other finalists:

- **City Market/Vegetarian River** 100 E. 23 Winoona Ave., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100
- **Flora Pizzeria** 1161 Green St., Winoona, 802-232-3100

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Green Goddess Café

Why stop at Greens? Monday's this veggie-friendly menu serves up a variety of local, healthy, organic ingredients when there's time. Try the organic, locally sourced, locally sourced, locally sourced. [123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000

Other finalists:

- **Green Goddess Café** 123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000
- **Green Goddess Café** 123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000
- **Green Goddess Café** 123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000
- **Green Goddess Café** 123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000
- **Green Goddess Café** 123 State St., Burlington, 815-463-0000



BEST COMFORT FOOD

Our House Bistro

Grilled, chicken, pork and cheese with add-ons such as lobster and pulled pork (all up to the kitchen's discretion). [100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100

Other finalists:

- **Bluebird Barbecue** 321 Riverside Dr., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **The Farmhouse Tap & Grill** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Wine & Cheese** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Wine & Cheese** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Wine & Cheese** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100

BEST EGGS BENEDICT

Sneakers Bistro

Local, home-grown ingredients, such as eggs, are used in this dish. [100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100

Other finalists:

- **Bluebird Barbecue** 321 Riverside Dr., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **The Farmhouse Tap & Grill** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Wine & Cheese** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Wine & Cheese** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **Wine & Cheese** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100

BEST SANDWICH

Kountry Kart Deli

Whether you're a fan of a classic American sandwich or a gourmet sandwich, Kountry Kart Deli has you covered. [100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100

Other finalists:

- **The Bagel Place** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **The Bagel Place** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **The Bagel Place** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **The Bagel Place** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100
- **The Bagel Place** 100 Main St., Burlington, 802-232-3100



BEST CREEMEE OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

VERMONT COOKIE LOVE

Since selling its first batch at the Shelburne Farmers Market in 2007, Vermont Cookies Love has gained a loyal following for its chewy cookies and bags of frozen dough. While these treats are now available in 140 stores and markets, Route 7 travelers can pick up at the home base — the Love Shack in North Ferrisburgh — for a just-baked cookie, scoop of hand-dipped ice cream or a dozen cookies made from local milk and premium ingredients. Flavors include chocolate, vanilla, maple, coffee and more. Also on the menu are homemade breads, soups and ice cream. Cookies and sandwiches made to order. All of this can be savored at the picnic tables and wooden benches by the Love Shack's walk-up window.

65 S. Route 7 North Ferrisburgh, 879-6085 • vermontcookieslove.com

BEST BAGEL

Myer's Bagels

A sweet-fresh turn-of-the-century style bagels at this east South End eatery. Top them slawed with house-smoked brisket or turkey. (707 Pine St., Burlington, 863-0202 • myersbagels.com)

Other finalists

- Bagel Market Bakery and Café**, 300 South Williston Rd., Essex Junction, 870-8848 • bagelmarketvt.com
- The Bagel Place**, 1080 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 487-7232 • thebagelplacevt.com
- Burlington Bagel Bakery**, 960 Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, 874-0238 • burlingtonbagelbakery.com
- Fisherman Bagels**, 660 Pine St., Burlington, 543-0404 • fishermanbagels.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

The Bagel

Tenety different bagels are made fresh twice each day at this eatery. Top yours slawed with house-smoked brisket or turkey or made into a sandwich. (204 Main St., Stowe, 853-6643 • thebagel.com)

Other finalists

- K.C.'s Bagel Café**, 17 Green St., Suite 1, Waterbury, 244-0760 • kcsbagels.com/bagelcafe
- Merlot Bagels**, 160 N. Main St., Suite 810, 810-2020 • merlotbagels.com
- Wally's Place Bagels & Deli**, 1 Ferry Rd., South Hero, 333-4568 • wallysplacevt.com

BEST CIDER DOUGHNUTS

Cold Hollow Cider Mill

This cider mill is a must-stop for local residents after doughnut consumption. Its doughnuts—churned on-site—hundreds every day, slawed—among the variety of fruit. (160 Route 100, Newbury Center, 863-9232 • coldhollow.com)

Other finalists

- Champlain Cider Mill**, 2207 Route 74, Shelburne, 887-2777 • champlaincidermill.com
- Chittenden Cider Mill/The Mill Market & Deli**, 1548 Green St., South Burlington, 852-4852 • chittendencidermill.com
- Harvest's Orchard**, 80 South St., South Hero, 332-4848 • harvestorchard.com
- Stone House Farm Market**, 177 Ludlow Rd., Colchester, 662-3448 • stonehousefarm.com

BEST PIZZA (RESTAURANT)

American Flatbread Burlington Hearth

Flatbread topped with gourmet local and organic ingredients is made before your eyes from open wood-fired ovens. Flatbread is also featured in this family fare. (35 St. Paul St., Burlington, 874-2969 • americanflatbread.com)

Other finalists

- Fabrizio**, 8305 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 863-8832 • fabrizio.com
- Juliana's Italian**, 25 E. Pine St., Colchester, 887-0202 • julianasitalian.com
- Pizzeria Vesuvio**, 230 St. Paul St., Burlington, 487-5844 • pizzeria-vesuvio.com
- Vermont Tap House**, 22 Montpelier Row, Williston, 875-7360 • vermonttaphouse.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Positive Pie

All portions of this pie are made from local-based society pies and create your own, along with house-made sandwiches and Vermont beers. (815 Main St., Montpelier, 422-7338 • 22 State St., Montpelier, 278-0232 • 85-68 Main St., Montpelier, 454-0232 • 787 N. Main St., Essex, 827-8522 • positivepie.com)

Other finalists

- The Blue Stone**, 15 State St., Westbury, 882-8158 • 534 Main St., Waterford, 882-7405 • bluestonevermont.com
- Pizzeria Pizzeria & Lounge**, 1095 Montpelier Rd., Stowe, 753-4471 • pizzeria.com

BEST PIZZA (DELIVERY)

Leonardo's Pizza

This pizza delivery services offer a wide range of base cheese and toppings. For lunch on the Monday through Friday, and then dinner during the weekend on pizza, whole wheat or gluten-free crusts. (203 Pine St., Burlington, 863-9232 • 1862 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 957-9699 • leonardospizza.com)

Other finalists

- Big Daddy's Place**, 171 Church St., Burlington, 863-9232 • 45 Montpelier Rd., Colchester, 487-7794 • bigdaddysplace.com
- Juliana's**, 116 Main St., Burlington, 862-9234 • 45 S. Park St., Colchester, 865-0908 • julianas.com
- Ramona's Brick Oven Pizza**, 18 Telt Center, Freeping Center, Williston, 876-1080 • 123 Temple Ave., Rutland, 247-9825 • 108 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, 751-9626 • 1840 Woodstock Rd., Quechee, 256-6413 • 515 Main St., Bennington, 442-6522 • ramonas.com
- Three Brothers Pizzeria & Grill**, 103 Rosemont Hwy., Colchester, 662-5552 • threebrotherspizzeria.com

Positive Pie

The Montpelier-based branches of this pizza delivery have expanded plans to clearly appreciate local ingredients. So called on the Old School Supermarket. (22 State St., Montpelier, 278-0232 • 815 Main St., Essex, 827-8522 • positivepie.com)

Other finalists

- James Pizzeria**, 10 Melrose Rd., Waterbury, 884-7891 • jamespizzeria.com
- Pizzeria Pizzeria & Lounge**, 1095 Montpelier Rd., Stowe, 753-4471 • pizzeria.com

BEST BURGER

The Farmhouse Tap & Grill

This eatery serving gastropub offers five local burgers with diverse and homemade ingredients such as house-made beef, Vermont blackstones, the spicy red pork, 180 Stone St., Burlington, 855-0287 • thefarmhousevt.com

Other finalists

- Austin's Deli**, 4386 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 885-4912 • austinsdeli.com
- Artful Pie**, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 543-0406 • artfulpie.com
- Greens**, 180 Rosemont St., Williston, 875-9235 • greensvt.com
- The Whipping Post**, 200 South St., Burlington, 855-0790 • the whipping post.com

FOOD

BEST BURGER

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Prohibition Pig

It's not just any burger. In keeping with its theme, the Pig has seven regular options. Included: the house version topped with pickled onions, a Prohibition tomato and applewood-smoked bacon. 23 S. Main St., Waterbury. 264-4100. prohibitionny.com

Other finalists

- Burger Barn**, 1160 Route 1, Cambridge. 702-2461 • Facebook
- Three Penny Taproom**, 101 Main St., Montpelier. 223-4070 • threepennytap.com
- Weekly Burger**, 38 Northdown St., South Burlington. 702-2670 • weeklybun.com

BEST STEAK

Guild Tavern

Guild's wood-fired grill cooks Vermont roast, dry-aged steaks and other local meats. Don't miss the house-made sausage with apple chutney butter and homemade onion butter. 1033 Williston Rd., South Burlington. 487-1001 • guildbarn.com

Other finalists

- Elk String's Prime Steakhouse**, 10 Church St., Burlington. 674-1444 • elkstring.com
- House of Wood**, 654 Perry St., Burlington. 542-0224 • 50 State St., Waterbury. 244-1320 • houseofwood.com
- Louisa's House & Cafe**, 15 Church St., Burlington. 674-3726 • louissahouse.com
- The Woodlands Restaurant**, 106 Williston Rd., South Burlington. 674-4544 • www.woodlandsrestaurant.com

BEST FRENCH FRIES

Al's French Fryz

Like no othering else about this place, the "fry" here are done the old-fashioned way: cut by hand and cooked twice to be hot, fresh and flavorful for your order. 1332 Williston Rd., South Burlington. 662-4103 • alsfrenchfryz.com

Other finalists

- Barnett's**, 440 Victory Park, Burlington • barnetts.com
- The Farmhouse Inn & Grill**, 163 Bank St., Burlington. 674-7630 • thefarmhouseinn.com
- Louisa's House & Cafe**, 15 Church St., Burlington. 674-3726 • louissahouse.com
- History Lanez**, 44 Main St., Montpelier. 487-3976 • historylanes.com

BEST WINGS

Wings Over Burlington

LMA-right, sauce and delivery options make the wings price point. The fresh chicken arrives in 15 minutes or less. 150 Vermont St., South Burlington. 863-6444 • wingsoverburlington.com

Other finalists

- Buffalo Wild Wings**, 103 Statehouse Rd., Burlington. 487-5063 • 200 Conant St., West. Burlington. 641-559 • 150 Route 1 • buffalowildwings.com
- Nemato's**, 181 Main St., Burlington. 662-4001 • nematos.com
- Palmer's Juices**, 108 Main St., Burlington. 664-5544 • palmerjuices.com
- Wicked Wings**, 11 Market Place, Suite 25, Burlington. 674-3300 • wickedwings.com
- 150 Lower Main St., Burlington. 674-4734 • wickedwingsvermont.com**

BEST SANDWICHES

Martone's Market & Cafe

This eat-in market is popular for its high-quality sandwiches, the Vermont — apple turkey ham, chicken and turkey sandwich on homemade bread — is a local favorite. 36 Main St., Essex Junction. 678-8763 • martonesmarket.com

Other finalists

- City Market/Diner Market Cafe**, 82 S. Vermont Ave., Burlington. 662-8700 • dinermarket.com
- Pave's Corners of the Earth**, 210 Pine St., Burlington. 662-1469 • Facebook
- Johnny's Deli**, 133 Main St., Burlington. 662-4428 • johnnysdeli.com
- Red Olive**, 140 Church St., Burlington. 662-5503 • Facebook

BEST THAI RESTAURANT

TINY THAI RESTAURANT

According to Paul Coselli, he "first fell in love with a Thai girl, then fell in love with Thai food." After working more than three years in Thailand as a computer programmer and marrying a Bangkok local, Coselli returned to Vermont, his home state, with a hunger for Thai. Thai cooking. Urged by his wife, Coselli opened Tiny Thai Restaurant in 2004 to satisfy his craving for dishes such as moo moo, a sweet and savory stew of pork, tofu and hard-boiled egg in a fragrant Thai-spice broth. Specializing in Thai cuisine one might find in food stalls, street carts and family dinner tables in the Southeast Asian country, Tiny Thai pleases local palates with an array of vibrant dishes. Particularly dining plates include sweet and crunchy pad Thai, mung bean curry, and when available, a green papaya salad served with soft, preserved crab and fresh Thai chilies. Ask for the Signature Thai Menu — and remember all 07033.

24 Main St., Winooski • 662-4808, tinythaivermont.com

BEST SUSHI

Asianna House

At this fusion-style Japanese spot, the signature rolls and sushi bar are especially popular, as are the Korean and Thai dishes. 1891 Pearl St., Burlington. 662-0218 • 43 State St., Montpelier. 225-0483 • asiannahouse.com

Other finalists

- Asian Bistro**, 35 Winooski Falls Way, Suite 112, Winooski. 662-5229 • 181 Calverly Way, Burlington. 674-9119 • asianbistroburlington.com
- Asianna House**, 1891 Pearl St., Burlington. 662-0218 • asiannahouse.com
- Sushi Japanese Restaurant**, 100 Vermont St., Suite 243, South Burlington. 444-3933 • sushijapanese.com
- Kiku Japanese**, 100 Main St., South Burlington. 662-8700 • kikusushi.com

BEST TACO

El Cortijo Taqueria Y Cantina

Seasoned immigrant farmers beguile a menu of tacos filled with diverse ingredients such as chicken, beef, tongue, veal, potato and chorizo. Add-ins include pickled jalapeños, queso, frita and onion cheese. 345 Bank St., Burlington. 662-4668 • cortijotaco.com

Other finalists

- Bueno T Sano**, 373 College St., Burlington. 664-9932 • buenotaco.com
- El Cortijo Taqueria Y Cantina**, 345 Bank St., Burlington. 662-4668 • 4 Park St., Essex Junction. 662-4334 • cortijotaco.com
- The Hot Date**, 2 Village Sq., Montpelier. 487-2577 • 79 Main St., Montpelier. 225-0228 • thohotdate.com
- Taco Gods**, 100 Church St., Burlington. 662-5503 • tacobgods.com



BEST CREAMEE

Burlington Bay Market & Café

This waterfront market is a seasonal creamery stand offers delicious vanilla and chocolate, but you've got to try the maple. Rows of Lake Champlain cream from the gelatinous petting-corn stand are here. 101 Gateway St., Burlington, 804-639-3370 (burlingtonbaymarket.com)

Other favorites

- **Alta French Pastry** 1515 Williston Rd., South Burlington 802-530-0300 • altafrenchpastry.com
- **Produce Lane Maple** 1 Oak Pump Rd., Jericho 802-875-0700 • prolucelane.com
- **Maple & B.F. Flute & Ice Cream** 30 Park St., Chittenden 802-441-4441 • mapleandicecream.com
- **The Village Scones** 419 Main St., Chittenden 802-492-2 • Facebook

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Vermont Cookie Love

The sweet, treasured sugar by year round for family baked sweets. In the summer the greater attention is on breads, which come in a wide variety. Vermont Hwy 100, Route 1 North-Hamilton, 802-891-0000 • vermontcookielove.com

Other favorites

- **Knapp Farm Supermarket & Gift Shop** 1000 Route 1, East Montpelier 802-873-6763 • knappfarm.com
- **Elroy Creamery** 233 State St., Montpelier 802-882-0000 • elroycreamery.com
- **Worcester Farm Maple Supermarket** 186 County Rd., Montpelier 802-242-2340 • montpelier.com

BEST HOUSEMADE ICE CREAM

Lake Champlain Chocolates

This Burlington chocolate has something for everyone. Cakes & biscuits for chocolate, cake & biscuit, cream & sugar, or homemade maple-butter pecan ice cream. 750 Pine St., Burlington, 804-882-4400 • 45 Church St., Burlington, 802-238-5500 (www.lakechamplainchocolates.com)

Other favorites

- **House of Vanille** 55 Cherry St., Burlington, 802-238-4400 • 80 State St., Burlington, 804-733-0000 • houseofvanille.com
- **Secret & Co.** 230 South Ave., Burlington, 804-528-1100 • 4100 St., Windsor, 804-528-1100 • 100 Lamoine Ave., Burlington, 804-238-0000 • secretandco.com
- **Shy Guy Gelato** 773 St. Paul St., Burlington, 802-851-0442 • shyguygelato.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Island Homemade Ice Cream

Based in Island, this small family-run creamery offers flavors such as French Vanilla and Chocolate Supreme, as well as other flavors including Vermont Maple Cream and English Tiramisu. 314 W. Shore Rd., Island, 802-828-8888 • www.islandhomemadeicecream.com

Other favorites

- **Old Vermont Gelato** 32 State St., Montpelier, 802-242-2400 • Facebook
- **Knapp Farm** 1 Main St., Montpelier, 802-882-0000 • Facebook
- **Worcester Farm** 186 County Rd., Montpelier, 802-242-2340 • Facebook



BEST FROZEN YOGURT

So Yo Frozen Yogurt

Thermal batch frozen yogurt here is made from farm-fresh, local ingredients. There are more than 20 toppings, including local berries in season, and more than 30 flavors, which change weekly. 606 Pine St., Burlington, 804-683-4900 • 49 Church St., Burlington Town Center (Burlington) • soyofrozenyogurt.com

Other favorites

- **Orange La Vie** 183 College St., Burlington, 802-532-5555 • orangeblondie.com
- **Yogurt City** 300 Canaan Hwy., Suite 100, Williston 802-930-1101 • 63 Main St., Montpelier 802-882-0000 • 34 Rutland Place, Burlington, 802-530-3333 • 321 Swanton Rd., St. Albans, 802-535-7777 • yogurtcity.com

BEST VERMONT CHEESE BRAND

Cabot Creamery

The Pacific creamery has gained respect in recent years for its cheddar cheese. Cabot's produces the Vermont cheddar, including Buffalo wing and Lucerne. Baking breads are popular. 3719 Main St., Cabot, 802-839-4882 • 2801 Route 100, Williston, 802-244-6204 • 5473 Woodstock Rd., Quebec, 815-519-0000 (cabotcreamery.com)

Other favorites

- **Swiss Family Cheese** 450 Linden St., St. Albans, 802-588-0000 • swissfamilycheese.com
- **Jaeger** 1801 Main St., 94 Carver Rd., Burlington, 802-532-5555 • jaegerbutter.com
- **Shelburne Farm** 101 New St., Shelburne, 802-565-0000 • shelburnefarm.com
- **Vermont Creamery** 25 Plummer St., Williston, 802-527-1000 • vermontcreamery.com

BEST FOOD/DRINK EVENT

ArtsRiot Truck Stop (Burlington)

The top-city food truck trend is finally making its Burlington. Get Mediterranean street food, southern barbecue, weird food, pizza, a lovely local beer — all in one parking lot. 1430 Pine St., Burlington, 802-242-0000 • artsriot.com

Other favorites

- **Burlington Farmers Market** City Hall Park, Burlington • burlingtonfarmersmarket.com
- **Burlington Wine & Food Festival** Waterford Park, Burlington • burlingtonwineandfoodfestival.com
- **Eat by the Riverfront** Cambridge Park, Burlington, 802-537-1444 • eatbytheriverfront.com
- **Harvest Weekend Festival** Recreation Park, Burlington • harvestweekend.com
- **Vermont Brews & Food Week** Shelburne, 804-528-1100 • www.vermontbrewsweek.com



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DRINK



Escape the joys, but Vermont is awash in acclaimed craft beverages. We're practically swimming in brews and distillies recognized on the international level. Our coffees are carefully sourced, our beers pressed from nearby orchards. Basically, our cup runneth over.

So let's raise a glass to all the folks who keep our men from half full. Cheers to the smoothie makers and cocktail shakers among us. The bartistas keeping us caffeinated, the brewers keeping us legal and the brewers keeping us buzzed. If the out-of-state license plates at Hill Farmstead Brewery—which earned its third Dayze this year—are any indication, the rest of the country wants a taste of what we've got, too.

No question, drinking brings us together. Whether you're looking for a Switchback and a stool to watch the game or a drink at place to hook up—no judgments—there's a bar for that. As for Vermont's best bar, Winooski's Mule Bar took its best year's winner, Three Needs Brewery & Taproom in Burlington. (Have we outgrown dollar drafts? [Never].)

Other new winners this year conquered the categories of best spirits, distiller, best cocktails and best barista. We toast them and all of the returning victors.

BEST CRAFT (OVERALL)

MULE BAR

There's a reason Mule Bar seems itself: "Winooski's craft beer haven post." Mounted behind the wraparound bar, 16 tap handles allow access to one of the best-curated draft lists around. The ever-changing roster of coveted brews ranges from local found German pilsners to revered Vermont favorites such as Lawrence Press's Luscious Pilsener. Every tap served the 16 outside beer can turn to avoid winning cocktails featuring housemade sodas, tonics and shrubs. Mule Bar's Mule Parkas was named 2016's Barman of the Year in a Vermont Tourism Summit contest by last year's food with that drink? The bar menu—featuring charcuterie, baked or burger, hand-cut fries, an all-day breakfast, "sammies" and the house-cured pork belly Cuban—will satisfy any comfort-food craving. No wonder Mule Bar is the favored hidden post of Seven Days readers.

38 Main St., Winooski, 249-2020
• mulebarvt.com

BEST CRAFT BREWERY

Hill Farmstead Brewery

Open 10/1/16 (Fri. and Sat.) in memory of the best in the world in 2015, the national has gained an international following. Hill's beer is as good as a bottle at the initial sip—just make sure to drink while waiting in line to get it. 1403 Main Rd., Greensboro (and, 533-3450 • hillfarmstead.com)

Other finalists

- **Main State Brewing Co.**, 1331E Main St., St. Albans, 339-1007 • mainstatebrewing.com
- **Fishbein Brewing Company**, 8100 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 369-2094 • fishbeinbrewing.com
- **Switchback Brewing Co.**, 1401 Lynn Ave., Burlington, 524-4471 • switchbackvt.com
- **Zero Gravity Drafts & Brewery**, 733 Pine St., Burlington, 497-2254 • 119 St. Paul St., Burlington, 497-2254 • zerogravitybeer.com

BEST WINERY

Shelburne Vineyard

Massachusetts' G&W blend is pairing new techniques with old. No other vineyard in the state is as renowned as the one in the hills. Sample a few such as the top Cuyler White or the top tasting Chardonnay. 36 Lake Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 545-4322 • shelburnevineyard.com

Other finalists

- **Bryden Valley Winery & Spirits**, 64 Route 104, Cambridge, 444-1122 • brydenvalley.com
- **East Shore Vineyard**, 1021 State Rd., South Hero, 218-5655 • eastshorevineyard.com
- **Lakeview Vineyard**, 143 River Rd., New Haven, 388-7988 • lakeviewwineryvt.com
- **Seven Farm Vineyard**, 7600 Shore Rd., South Hero, 222-5623 • sevenfarm.com

BEST CIDER (NONALCOHOLIC)

Cold Hollow Cider Mill

This Pleasanton Institution is a must-visit on Route 100. It's also the Dayze for best cider straight up. Visit the mill to sample, shop, see the Apple Cider Luncheon and watch the action on the 1500-acre farm. 16000 Route 100, Waterbury Center, 800-327-7537 • coldhollow.com

Other finalists

- **Champion Orchard**, 3001 Route 14, Southtown, 887-0775 • championorchard.com
- **Chickadee Cider Mill/The Mill Market & Deli**, 1520 Conant St., South Burlington, 483-4642 • thechickadeecider.com
- **Colden Cider**, 300 Pine St., Suite 1K, Burlington, 497-1581 • coldencider.com
- **Shelburne Ciderworks**, 218 Cochran Rd., Shelburne, 545-2763 • shelburneciderworks.com



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BEST SPIRITS DISTILLER

CALEDONIA SPIRITS

It's unlikely that a tiny Vermont distillery situated behind a flag yard in Hardwick, would produce one of the world's top rated gins. Right? Wrong. At Caledonia Spirits, that gin is based in honey—seemingly even more unlikely at a time when honeybees are pushing into unprecedented numbers. And, as the art of barrel making fades into history, the distillery has found a nearby artisan to coop its barrels using rare Vermont white oak. Caledonia Spirits accomplishes all of these unlikely things to craft fan-favorite favorites such as Bart Hill gin and vodka along with the sweet, amber-hued Tonic Cal Reserve gin (and a forthcoming aged whiskey). Tasting them is a believing.

40 Log Yard Dr., Hardwick, 417-8030 • caledoniaspirits.com

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BEST HAND CIDERY

Citizen Cider

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Other finalists

- **Champion Ciderworks**, 3050 Route 14, Shelburne, 887-2777 • championciderworks.com
- **Shedding**, 3442 Route 10A, Shelburne, 458-0535 • sheddingcider.com
- **Scout Cider**, 799 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-5065 • scoutcider.com
- **Woodhead Road Cider**, 1271 Exchange St., Middlebury, 380-3838 • woodheadcider.com

BEST SPIRITS DISTILLER

Caledonia Spirits

Bring in the New Year's Eve spirit: this distillery crafts excellent Bart Hill vodka and gin. The spirit is a perfect honey-sweet delight. See the list. (40 Log Yard Dr., Hardwick, 417-8030 • caledoniaspirits.com)

Other finalists

- **Green Mountain Distillers**, 162 Thomas Lane, Stowe, 253-8364 • greenmountain.com
- **Woodhead Road Cider**, 1271 Exchange St., Shelburne, 458-0535 • sheddingcider.com
- **Scout Cider**, 799 Mountain Rd., Stowe, 253-5065 • scoutcider.com
- **Shedding**, 3442 Route 10A, Shelburne, 458-0535 • sheddingcider.com
- **Woodhead Road Cider**, 1271 Exchange St., Shelburne, 458-0535 • sheddingcider.com

BEST DRAFT BEER LIST

The Farmhouse Tap & Grill

The Upstairs patio and unvarnished outdoor beer garden at this full-on gastropub — which also hosts a weekly live music series (1000 — after a test of new and classic brews from Vermont and beyond, 248 Elm St., Burlington, 855-95-3636 — farmhousetap.com)

Other finders:

- **The Arkivo:** 101 College St., Burlington, 855-4333 — thearkivo.com
- **Mountain Plaza Pub:** 167 Main St., Burlington, 855-4796 — mountainplazapub.com
- **McKissack's:** 11 Commerce Rd., Colchester, 877-5492 • 30 Langdon St., Montpelier, 223-2727 • 28 Walnut St., Winoona, 855-1000 — mckissacksburlington.com
- **Blue Bar:** 30 Main St., Winoona, 299-2699 — mbluebarvt.com

OUTSIDE CRAFTSMAN COUNTRY

Prohibition Pig

One of the largest and best beer selections in New England is on the menu at this popular gastropub (year-round, 1000, 248 Elm St., Winoona, 244-4433 — prohibitionpig.com)

Other finders:

- **Bar Picnic:** 25 Kilbourne Rd., Stowe, 762-6356 — barpicnic.com
- **The Riverside Restaurant & Tap Room:** 55 Main St., Winoona, 244-3227 — riversiderestaurant.com
- **Three Penny Brewery:** 100 Main St., Montpelier, 223-4271 — threepennybrewery.com

BEST BREWPUB

Prohibition Pig

Get the "first craft beer of the season" in the restaurant, or head outside to the sun-soaked brewery and tasting room for pours of housemade American Pilsner (open at 1000, 248 Elm St., Winoona, 244-4433 — prohibitionpig.com)

Other finders:

- **10th Star Brewing Co.:** 130 N. Main St., St. Albans, 328-5069 — 10thstarbrewing.com
- **Lost Nation Brewing:** 425 Old Cemetery Rd., Morrisville, 254-9041 — lostnationbrewing.com
- **Vermont Park & Brewery:** 144 College St., Burlington, 855-5120 — vermontparkandbrewery.com
- **Zero Gravity Craft Brewery:** 110 St. Paul St., Burlington, 855-9555 • 718 Pine St., Burlington, 852-6354 — zerogravitybrewery.com

BEST WINE LIST

Hen of the Wood

Popular pinot, label-jazzed reds and Merlot. Thanks to just the beginning of this popular Burlington atmosphere, co-owner and wine expert William Michael has more than 100 bottles and more than a dozen vintages to the glass. (55 Cherry St., Burlington, 548-5534 • 30 Stone St., Winoona, 244-7420 — henofthewood.com)

Other finders:

- **Leaving Labels & C&B:** 75 Church St., Burlington, 852-3758 — leavinglabelsandcandb.com
- **Deluca:** 45 Main St., Winoona, 446-3146 — deulac.com
- **Trunkster's:** 101 St. Paul St., Burlington, 854-5253 — trunksters.com
- **Vin Bar & Shop:** 136 College St., Burlington, 457-9133 — vinbarvt.com

BEST WINE SHOP

Cheese & Wine Traders

A multi-decade winery, this importer of more than 1500 quality wines, dozens of cheeses and miscellaneous "accidents" of gourmet foods all in one place at "price" is a South Burlington institution. (7380 Colchester Rd., South Burlington, 852-4933 — cheesewinetraders.com)

Other finders:

- **Each Wine Bar & Market:** 11 Stone St., Winoona, 852-6229 • 35 School St., Stowe, 762-6443 — eachwine.com
- **Deluca Wine:** 140 Church St., Burlington, 852-7355 — delucawine.com
- **Village Wine and Coffee:** 1030 St. Albans Rd., Shelburne, 855-0922 — villagewineandcoffee.com
- **Wine Bar & Shop:** 101 College St., Burlington, 457-9133 — vinbarvt.com

BEST CRAFT BEER SELECTION (RETAILER)

Beverage Warehouse

Importers of the craft beer wine and liquor store genre, and beyond to keep to 10,000 plus (open 1000, 248 Elm St., Winoona, 244-4433 — beveragewarehousevt.com)

Other finders:

- **City Market/Wine River Corp.:** 107 S. Winoona Ave., Burlington, 854-0700 — citymarketvt.com
- **Draft Beer Craft:** 371e St., Winoona, 852-6334 — draftbeer.com
- **Healthy Living Market & Cafe:** 227 South St., South Burlington, 852-3668 — healthylivingmarket.com

BEST PICKUP BAR

Red Square

This hip downtown bar has the DJ and other music in two different spaces, as well as a table in the alley during warmer months. Cool and casual. It's a great place to see similar acts. (238 Church St., Burlington, 852-4935 — facebook)

Other finders:

- **The Archivist:** 93 College St., Burlington, 448-4333 — thearchivist.com
- **Nesika's:** 811 Main St., Burlington, 852-4771 — nesikas.com
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom:** 110 Post St., Burlington — facebook

BEST CIGAR

The Other Place

The front wall of this friendly neighborhood institution is a sign that says "up to the customer." You can go there to people watch — or to grab a drink and watch a game. (2000, 248 Elm St., Burlington, 852-5400 — facebook)

Other finders:

- **Chandler's:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 852-4771 — chandler.com
- **Essex:** 141 Main St., Burlington, 852-4284 — facebook
- **J.P.'s Pub:** 101 Main St., Burlington, 852-4284 — facebook
- **The Stone Brewery & Pub:** 21 North St., Burlington, 854-0835 — facebook

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Other finalists

- **Alibi Place** 134 Church St., Burlington, 854-8713 • Facebook
- **Butcher With Wings** 555 Shelburne Rd., Burlington 485-5643 • 280 Conover St., Montpelier 875-5480 • butcherwithwings.com
- **Church Street Tavern** 803 Church St., Burlington 554-1305 • churchstreettavern.com
- **Ruby James** 154 Main St., Burlington 854-9344 • rubyjames.com

BEST PLACE TO DRINK ALONE

The Daily Planet

If you're drinking alone, why not drink with wit & a tip. Internet bar this downtown hot spot is also welcoming to locals. Don't drink your troubles with a glass of G&P on a promenade and close around Best Tasty (15 Center St., Burlington, 862-8647 • dailyplanetvt.com)

Other finalists

- **The Other Place** 416 Williston Ave., Suite 1 Burlington 854-5833 • Facebook
- **Redirection** 114 Vermont Ave. Burlington 862-9348 • redirection.com
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom** 145 Pearl St., Burlington • Facebook
- **Vermont Comedy Club** 101 Main St., Burlington 858-5160 • vermontcomedyclub.com

BEST BAR (OVERALL)

Mule Bar

Hang your hat at Mule's craft beer kitchen, pub, and stay a while, please. There's elevated pub fare, a thoughtfully curated tap list, 16 beers long, original and classic cocktails, and homemade soups, toasts and salads. What more do you want? 134 Main St., Montpelier, 865-3030 • mulebarvt.com

Other finalists

- **The Archives** 171 College St., Burlington, 445-4133 • thearchivesbar.com
- **Marathon Pils & Pub** 167 Main St., Burlington, 555-4786 • marathonpilsandpub.com
- **Mule's** 134 Main St., Burlington, 858-4771 • mulebarvt.com
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom** 145 Pearl St., Burlington • Facebook
- **Vermont Comedy Club** 101 Main St., Burlington, 858-5160 • vermontcomedyclub.com

BEST BOUNCERS

Higher Ground

The premier nightclub in South Burlington hosts a continuous series of bands and live acts in the larger Ballroom and smaller Showcase Lounge. Good to know there are separate bouncers to handle the ragers and partygoers. 1000 Robinson Rd., South Burlington, 862-2707 • highergroundmusic.com

Other finalists

- **Chocolate Thunder** Burlington, 700-6466 • chocolatethunder.com
- **Club Hemisphere** Montpelier, 551 Main St., Burlington, 862-4771 • hemisphere.com
- **Red Square** 134 Church St., Burlington, 855-6305 • Facebook
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom** 145 Pearl St., Burlington • Facebook

BEST BARTENDER

Chris Maloney (Hen of Wood, Burlington)

This bartender has a magic touch whenever he gets a drink ordering. He has all the food from the top rated local vendors. He's intelligent — Saint Michael's College grad — has become known for his no-nonsense classic cocktails for the modern palate. 301 Henry St., Burlington, 849-2634 • henofwood.com

Other finalists

- **Jordan Bennett (The Grange)** 121 Main St., Burlington, 485-5695 • grangevt.com
- **Miles Stone (Miles Stone Co.)** 48 Main St., Montpelier, 875-5480 • milesstoneco.com
- **Payton White (Vermont Comedy Club)** 101 Main St., Burlington, 858-5160 • vermontcomedyclub.com
- **Sandy Payne (McGillCuddy's Irish Ale House)** 154 Center St., Montpelier, 875-5480 • Facebook

BEST GAY-FRIENDLY BAR

Onk45

This cozy, dimly lit wine bar on the Williston traffic circle has long communal tables, rarely caught and elegant cocktails that beckon to all. The cute bartenders are friendly even at the peak. (Plus free Glenlivet 54) 44 Main St., Montpelier, 445-3243 • onk45.com

Other finalists

- **Drink** 133 St. Paul St., Burlington, 862-6863 • drinkvt.com
- **Halfpenny Spoken** 135 W. Church St., Burlington, 862-6161 • Facebook
- **Red Square** 134 Church St., Burlington, 855-6305 • Facebook
- **Three Heads Brewery & Taproom** 145 Pearl St., Burlington • Facebook





BEST COFFEE SHOP & BEST BARISTA

UNCOMMON GROUNDS COFFEE AND TEA & ROB MAYNARD

Just across the Church Street Marketplace from Starbucks, family owned Uncommon Grounds has rustic wooden floorboards, patterned bistro lights and local art on the walls. Treats such as vegan peanut butter bars, lozenges and biscotti sit in glass bakery cases. Burlap bags of coffee beans, sourced from all over the world, are stacked against the walls, waiting to roast in the huge Probat L32 by the door. It's little surprise that, after more than two decades in business, the spot is still winning over the hearts and minds of the coffee-drinking public. It doesn't hurt that best barista Rob Maynard is behind the counter, appreciated by local coffee aficionados for his passion and perfect cups.

42 Church St., Burlington 866-6221 • ugviremont.com

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Sneakers District

The weekend brunch—with its signature spicy Bloody—has become the daily special at this hip, modern eatery. Go early to beat the crowds. 128 Main St., Winooski 802-861-4600 (sneakersdistrict.com)

Other favorites

- American Flavored Buttercream** 110 St. Paul St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (americanflavored.com)
- Leaving a Broken & Calf** 105 Church St., Burlington 802-228-1100 (leavingabrokenandcalf.com)
- Magnolia House** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (magnoliahouse.com)
- Peony House Cafe** 105 Cherry St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (peonyhouse.com)
- Rainbow House** 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (rainbowhouse.com)

BEST COCKTAILS

Waterworks Food + Drink

This gorgeous space on the edge of the nearby Winooski River has plenty of seats at the bar. Order a Waterworks cocktail like the Watermelon Margarita, or a local and blue cocktail like the Pilsner Sour. You won't regret it. 200 Winooski Falls Way Winooski 487-2525 (www.waterworks.com)

Other favorites

- Church & Main** 108 Church St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (churchandmain.com)
- The Daily Planet** 15 Center St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (thedailyplanet.com)
- Point of View** 102 Cherry St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (pointofview.com)
- Juniper** 41 Cherry St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (juniper.com)

BEST SMOOTHIES/JUICES

Tomgirl Juice Co.

At 915 South Main they just don't get any organic, seasonal juicers—think cold-pressed, organic, seasonal juice—think cold-pressed, organic, seasonal juice—think cold-pressed, organic, seasonal juice. 915 South Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (tomgirljuice.com)

Other favorites

- Don't Be a Juice** 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (dontbeajuce.com)
- Juicebox** 104 College St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (juicebox.com)
- Muddy Waters** 104 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (muddywaters.com)
- The Vermont Juice Company** 11 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (vtjuice.com)

BEST TEAHOUSE

Doherty Tea

Bring a pot and your choice of teas from 50 varieties of loose-leaf teas. Doherty Tea is a local business. 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (dohertytea.com)

Other favorites

- Healy Waters** 104 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (healywaters.com)
- The Vermont Tea Co.** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (vtteaco.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Uncommon Grounds Coffee and Tea

The historic building, locally owned and operated, is a great place to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee. 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (uncommongrounds.com)

Other favorites

- Magnolia** 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (magnolia.com)
- Healy Waters** 104 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (healywaters.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)

BEST COFFEE ROASTER

Vermont Coffee Company

All the blends from this Midwestern roaster are organic and fair trade. Stop at the shop or online. 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (vermontcoffee.com)

Other favorites

- Eric Coffee** 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (ericcoffee.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)

BEST BAKERY

Rob Maynard (Uncommon Grounds Coffee and Tea)

Maynard roasts high-quality, organically grown beans right in the heart of his Capitol building. 105 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (uncommongrounds.com)

Other favorites

- Healy Waters** 104 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (healywaters.com)
- Tea & Coffee** 110 Main St., Burlington 802-250-1100 (teaandcoffee.com)
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BEST BEER GEEK ENABLER



Meg Schultz

Age: 38

Occupation: owner, Meg's Events
Sweetie: Morty

One afternoon, many winters ago Meg Schultz sat at the bar at Mud River & Glen enjoying an après-ski bevvy with Liversies friends (Liversies' driver Sean Liversie: "We should join our own beer fest," Schultz recalls one of them saying). The following September the event planner — a social butterfly and beer lover who had previously focused more on private events and weddings — cooked up a harebrained little brew fest at the base area of Fayston's cooperative, ski-simply no-snowmaking mountain Gulliver's Tavern. The event was snafu, but Schultz had persuaded some of Vermont's finest brewers to participate, and the music was great, the vibes good, the setting beautiful.

That fest will be the event's eighth season and, in the interim years, Schultz has traveled further into festival territory — to the delight

of Vermont's craft beer scene. Meg Jaro, a former summer dailie at Golden Valley Resort, has been a hit since 2004, and 2010 brought Bud's Beer Fest, an intimate celebration of women in brewing. While Schultz enjoys bringing the best brewers in the Northeast together for a full party, she says her favorite part of the job is "looking out on the crowd and seeing all these people having fun and thinking I did this. I made this happen."

Go-to Vermont beer? At the moment, Liversie's Super Session or Zero Gravity Little West.

Regular watering hole? In all of Newbury, I've been really enjoying Backback Pub and the Prohibition Pig Brewery in Watford. The Mud Tap — that place is like a damn vortex. It just sucks you right in.

Unexpectedly great new brewery? Jim Digging Ponds (Pond and Upper Pond) right now. There's a lot I haven't had the chance to try yet, too.

HANNAH PALMER EGAN

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Here's the thing about Veranostris: They know what they like. Specifically maple syrup. Subarus. And the winners in the arts and entertainment sections of the Gaylees. The vast majority of these finalists — for best music venue, movie theater, museum and more — are perennial favorites. All we can say to them is, keep up the good work! You guys rock, and in some cases, sail.

Still, we've Gayleie-crowned some deserving new winners this year, especially in the musician categories. (Look for a changing of the guard in best vocalist.) And, since the visual arts are alive and well here, we welcomed best painter, best sculptor and best photographer into the fold. See any winners you're not familiar with? Do yourself a favor and let them entertain you.



BEST LOCAL THEATER COMPANY LYRIC THEATRE COMPANY

It's hard to argue with a community theater that helps shape the lions of Shana Taub, described by the *New York Times* as "a gravitational force around whom others cluster like flings to a magnet." Since its first production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* in 1934, Lyric has grown into one of the largest community theater groups in the United States, producing two class act musicals per year — usually to sold-out audiences. Lyric has something for every generation making the company a certifiable fixture of the Burlington arts community.

55 Leroy Rd., Williston, 658-1484 • lyrictheatre.org

16/17 SEASON
HIGHLIGHTS

Ben Fields

Renee Harris
Punishment

Art Garfunkel

Esperanza Spalding:
JEMMY'S D+EVOLUTION

Marc Maron

The Capitol Steps

The Triplets of Belleville
with live music
by Le Terrible Orchestra
de BellevilleBroadway National Tour
Rock!Broadway National Tour
Azzie

Vienna Boys Choir

Cirque Mefist Africa

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BEST LARGE LIVE MUSIC VENUE

Waterfront Park

Whenever heard at white tents spring up on this lakeside prom—be the Burlington Summer Jazz Festival, Lake Champlain Maritime Festival or Grand Point North—you can rest assured the music will be great. **Waterfront Park, Burlington, 855-7347 • cityofburlington.com**

Other finalists

- **Champlain Valley Exposition, 105 Pearl St., Essex Junction, 855-5545 • vexpo.org**
- **Flug Center for Live Performing Arts, 153 Main St., Burlington, 855-4022 • flugcenter.org**
- **Higher Ground, 1054 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 855-8777 • highergroundvt.com**
- **Shelburne Museum, 6500 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 855-2348 • shelburnemuseum.org**

BEST SMALL LIVE MUSIC HOT SPOT

Neectar's

Share eight Club Neectar's—aka the House That Posh Built—has this small, sweet NYC a notch from local regional and national acts of all genres. It's also got the rooftop—and only—rocking wine night in town. **183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**

Other finalists

- **Amfibi, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 845-0406 • amfibi.com**
- **Monday House, 38 Main St., Winoand, 855-4553 • mondayhousevt.com**
- **Radio Room, 814 Williston Rd., Burlington, 855-7345 • radioroom.com**
- **Signal Kitchen, 75 Pearl St., Burlington, 855-5377 • sigalkitchen.com**

BEST PLACE TO PLAY POOL

Three Needs Brewery & Taproom

A new, fully equipped bar provides Brewery and Bar and a full atmosphere offering pool tables and more to a local hot spot. **183 Pearl St., Burlington, 855-9275 • threeneeds.com**

Other finalists

- **Charlie's World, 105 Main St., Montpelier, 253-6400 • charliesworld.com**
- **Monday House, 38 Main St., Winoand, 855-4553 • mondayhousevt.com**
- **Neectar's, 183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**
- **Nectar's, 183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**
- **Signal Kitchen, 75 Pearl St., Burlington, 855-5377 • sigalkitchen.com**



BEST PLACE TO DANCE

CLUB METRONOME

Did you know that, until fairly recently it was illegal to dance in a Burlington bar or club while holding a drink? Fortunately, that convoluted patch blue law has been banished from the books. Not that it ever put much of a damper on the dance business at Club Metronome. Thanks to long-running residences such as the weekly 1920s dance party RetroRave and regularly hosting electronic dance music DJs of local, national and international renown, the dance floor above scenic Burlington Club Neectar's is always packed—and well lubricated.

183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • clubmetronome.com

BEST PLACE TO DANCE

Club Metronome

Since the 1920s, this has been the place to throw your things especially on Saturdays. Touting and local live acts perform during the week. **183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • clubmetronome.com**

Other finalists

- **Fuller's Sportsbar, 118 100 Church St., Burlington, 855-7775 • fullers.com**
- **Higher Ground, 1054 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 855-8777 • highergroundvt.com**
- **Neectar's, 183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**
- **Radio Room, 814 Williston Rd., Burlington, 855-7345 • radioroom.com**
- **Signal Kitchen, 75 Pearl St., Burlington, 855-5377 • sigalkitchen.com**

BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

Neectar's

Know it all, tonight on Thursdays the Trivia Mania, which offers obscure questions on pop culture, history, science and more, as well as water, famous grey pits. **183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**

Other finalists

- **Amfibi, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 845-0406 • amfibi.com**
- **Neectar's, 183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**
- **Radio Room, 814 Williston Rd., Burlington, 855-7345 • radioroom.com**
- **Signal Kitchen, 75 Pearl St., Burlington, 855-5377 • sigalkitchen.com**


BEST KARAOKE

JP's Pub

Has almost one hundred up-to-date, rock, standards at least three nights a week. Can't sing? There are also pool and basketball tables and of course, TVs. **139 Main St., Burlington, 855-4345 • jpspub.com**

Other finalists


- **Amfibi, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 845-0406 • amfibi.com**
- **Neectar's, 183 Main St., Burlington, 855-4771 • neectars.com**
- **Radio Room, 814 Williston Rd., Burlington, 855-7345 • radioroom.com**
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- Best museum

SMALL-TOWN ARTS IMPRESARIO



BEST STANDUP COMIC

Josie Leavitt

the very funny lady is almost single-handedly responsible for launching a standup-comedy scene in Vermont. She collaborated and performs with the Vermont Comedy Cows and has nurtured nascent comics through regular classes at FiberArts.com/Events/ClassesandWorkshops

Clark, R. S. 1997. *Reproductive success*. Blackwell Science, Oxford.

- Anya Wells, Facebook
- Kendall Farris, Facebook
- Maggie Lane, Facebook
- Richard Lauson, Twitter

BEST VOCALIST

Kat Wright

Hershey knows her vintage audio and that sultry voice — it's no wonder this retro soul diva has captivated local audiences and is primed to make bigger waves with the release of her upcoming debut album. (photo by Paul Ward)

Cellular Respiration

- **Francesca Bianchini** francesca@bianchini.com
- **Josh Finkle** josh@finkle.com
- **Mary Flynn** mary@flynn.com
- **Nicole Johnson** nicole@johnson.com

BEST INSTRUMENTALIST

Seth Yacovone

Nectar's regulars know the show well. He's held down the Friday-night headliner slot for a decade. Noting how much his bluesy guitar licks — unless it's his deep growl/burlesque or snail's pace ballad, "Starfish" —

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

- **Bob Wagner** SoundEffects@earthlink.net
- **Dave Simpson** grips@earthlink.net
- **Josh Panata** joshpanata.com
- **Paul Azzali** paul@thebark.com

BEST AMERICANA ARTIST OR GROUP

Starline Rhythm Boys

The round, colorful stewards have been busy for decades since 1964 and are one of the hardest-working bands in Vermont. Catch them at festivals, Burgers & Brunch, Scrambles and nightclubs around the state. [burrowsband.com](http://www.burrowsband.com)

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- Brett Hughes, brownsblues.com
- Eric George, ericgeorgemusic.com
- Josh Pandorini, thejoshpandorini.blogspot.com
- Wayne Speed, wayneinspired.com



494/63

Occupational executive director: Owen
Karl THELDER

Terasaki T and Ishida M (1999)

Google "Doug Anderson" and you'll find a Tolkien scholar, an American gospel singer, a New Zealand rugby player, and a Scottion website photographer, among others. None of them is Doug Anderson, executive director of Town Hall Theater in Middletown, though, as he points out, the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Florida comes a little closer — conceptually, anyway.

Themed as an actor and theater director, Otto-burn-Anderson — an East Middlebury resident since 1993 — doesn't just head up THF. He is the reason the beloved venue exists. "I first walked into the building in 1997 and found out it had been a theater," he recalls. "I said, 'Well, take it! I loved it as a student; it was the only one you could go to!'"

The 1973 building had fallen into disrepair but Anderson saw only potential — not just for a theater but for the community. Before, it came to the

quality and economy of downtown, he says "You open a theater and things increase."

The restoration took 10 years and a number of creative, humorously-themed fundraisers that yielded some \$5 million. TAT opened officially in 2008 and now holds 100 exhibits per year.

But from the beginning, Anderson pursued his passion, mounting performances in the space even as others flew in the nation's. He founded the Opera Company of Middlebury in 2004. He's directed shows for the Middlebury Actors Workshop and college theater he recently directed *James and the Giant Peach* through THX's educational programs. Next year, he says, he'll move into an artistic director role as the board selects a new ED.

What does he think about his big role in a small town? "It's very gratifying," says Anderson. "To know that the arts can have such an impact on everything."

Vernant performs more people should know. Kinn. Naderhaus, the most successful musical theater performer. The most of the city.

Gnometown Hero

to work with. I'd call her weekly
monthly weekly if I had the chance.

Best place to dine before catching a show at TAP: Alibi, Sabu Sabu (excellent Thai food just next door to the theater) and Two Brothers Taverns (our performers' favorite after-show gathering place).

Off-the-beaten-track place to see a great show—Great bands, great wine and a great view at the Lincoln Peak Winery (concert series) in New Haven.

PAMELA A. ISOM, EDITOR

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

BEST PERFORMING ARTS VENUE

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

The Flynn Center is a restored art-deco movie house with a 1,400-seat theater as well as the smaller TivoliPlex in dance studios and an art gallery. It also offers nationally recognized arts education programs, thousands of schoolchildren to share each year. (501 Park St., Burlington, 432-4330 • flynncenter.org)

Other finalists

- Amtrak**, 400 Pine St., Burlington, 542-0404 • amtrak.com
- Higher Ground**, 1714 Middlesex St., South Burlington, 354-2371 • highergroundvt.com
- Horseshoe City Hall Auditorium**, 15 Main St., Montpelier, 332-0450 • montpeliertheatre.org
- Vermont Conservatory of Music**, 101 Main St., Burlington, 853-0830 • vermontconservatory.com

BEST ART GALLERY

Shelburne Museum

An gallery, home to an galleries. Thirty-nine buildings—including five houses—form a village and the surrounding landscape—exhibit the American folk art for which this museum is famous. The Putnam Center for Art and Education features children and contemporary art. (6000 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 934-3345 • shelburnemuseum.org)

Other finalists

- ICA Center**, 135 Church St., Burlington, 332-7655 • burlington.ica.org
- Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery**, 85 Church St., Burlington, 332-8478 • frog-hollow.org
- The S.P.A.C.E. Gallery**, 280 Pine St., Suite 103, Burlington, 332-8931 • spacegallery.com
- West Vermont Gallery & Sculpture Park**, 171 Mount Fair Lane, Stowe, 332-8343 • westvermontgallery.com

BEST MOVIE THEATER

Majestic 10

The Wilbur movie house with a massive country room is a place to view your favorite movie stars, and when you're looking for a place everyone has a good view. (Majestic 10, 100 Main St., Burlington, 332-2344 • majestic10.com)

Other finalists

- Gracie Cinema**, 15 Essex Way, Suite 300, Essex, 853-1231 • www.gracie.com
- Majestic 10**, 100 Main St., Burlington, 332-2344 • majestic10.com
- Palace 6**, 101 Apple St., South Burlington, 332-3432 • palace6.com
- The Savoy Theater**, 25 Main St., Montpelier, 332-0508 • savoymontpelier.com



BEST VOCALIST

KAT WRIGHT

Tammy Fletcher and Grace Potter. That's the entire list of singers who have won the best vocalists' Dayzes award since 2003. But this year we're adding a third: Kat Wright. Backed by the Indemitable Soul Band, the dynamic diva has charmed audiences all over the Northeast recently. That helps explain how Wright became the first vocalist other than Potter to win the award since Fletcher won her second Dayzes in 2004. Interestingly, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals signed their major label deal in 2005, the same year Potter won her first Dayzes. Is the "Dayzes bummer" real? With ambitious tour plans and an anticipated new record due this fall, Wright and company certainly appear poised to break out on a national stage in 2015. And they'll always be hometown favorites—Seven Days readers named the band both the best funk/R&B group and best parties group for the second year.

katwrightsoulband.com

BEST ARTS EVENT

South End Art Hop

Vermont's largest art event attracts more than 30,000 for a weekend filled with open studios, music, food, and a fashion show. The monthly free fest is organized by the South End Arts and Business Association and takes place along Burlington Pine Street. (Burlington, 934-9927 • seahop.com)

Other finalists

- Festival of Foods**, Burlington, 934-7388 • www.festivaloffoods.com
- Horseshoe Art Walk**, Montpelier, 332-0804 • horseshoeartwalk.com
- Open South Weekend**, South End, 332-3380 • www.southend.com
- Vermont Burlington Festival**, Burlington, www.vtburlingtonfestival.com

BEST MUSEUM

Shelburne Museum

Founded in 1947, the Shelburne Museum has 160 members, 15,000 objects in its permanent collection and 150,000 in its 150,000-acre and 1,000-acre gardens. Though most of the buildings actually open to the public, the Putnam Center for Art and Education is a year-round. (6000 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 934-3345 • shelburnemuseum.org)

Other finalists

- EDCO Learning Center for Lake Champlain**, 1 College St., Burlington, 332-8949 • edcolearning.org
- Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium**, 100 Main St., St. Albans, 332-2310 • fairbanksmuseum.org
- Hendricks Museum of Science**, 100 Main St., Newbury, 845-2380 • hendricksmuseum.org
- University of Vermont Natural History Museum of Art**, 10 College Ave., Burlington, 332-2380 • uvmnaturalhistory.org

BEST PAINTER/ILLUSTRATOR

Katharine Montseum

A perennial favorite, Katharine Montseum paints floral and scenic watercolors—many produced in five parts and printed on silk and paper. Her downtown Burlington gallery is across the street from City Hall. (244 St. Paul St., Burlington, 332-8772 • kathmontseum.com)

Other finalists

- Erin Hays**, Burlington, 858-1381 • erinhays.com
- Jess Polansky**, Ferrisville, 332-8815 • jesspolansky.com
- Jon Young**, 81 Hedges Ct., St. Albans, 332-7575 • jonnyoungstudio.com
- Debra Fidler**, 78 E. Main St., South Burlington, 332-7690 • debrafidler.com

BEST SCULPTOR

Kate Pond

The Burlington sculptor has sparked her street works around the city. "Take It" stands outside the Fletcher Free Library and her "No Matter What" sculpture has made a splash along the Williston River. (111 W. Union St., Burlington, www.katepondsculpture.com)

Other finalists

- John Brinkley**, 332-8815 • johnbrinkley.com
- Leslie Fier**, 332-3380 • lesliefier.com

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Karen Pike

From weddings to portrait sessions to editorial shoots, this Burlington photographer "works like a fly on the wall" to capture emotion, action, personality and important life events with a clarity and of course perfect focus. (378 Flynn Ave., Suite 3C, Burlington, 332-7552 • karenpikephoto.com)

Other finalists

- Kenneth Johnson**, 332-5255 • kennethjohnson.com
- Matthew Thomas**, 332-3208 • matthewthomas.com
- Michael Cook**, (Burlington Photography) 47 Main St., Suite 312, Burlington, 934-2223 • burlingtonphotography.com
- Stephen Hesse**, 2350 W. Williston Rd., Williston, 332-8320 • www.stephenhess.com

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SHOPPING

In our opinion, the biggest win of the Daytons is the fact that locally owned shops by and large outdo big-box competitors. Let's hear it for the little guy or gal! Not so little anymore, eh?

Residents being loyal to local Seven Days voters tend to be loyal to the same shops year after a year. But the votes are often really close, with several strong contenders in many categories, and this year saw some new winners rise to the top. ECCO stole the Dayton away from longtime favorite Sweet Lady Jane in the always-competitive category of best women's casual clothing (inside Chester town County). Pilots Closet scored its inaugural win for best secondhand clothing. Northern Lights did the same for best place to buy a pet. And Church Street's Kwik the Cook must be feeling the love. It won best housewares store in addition to maintaining best kitchen store.

Others handily hung onto their Dayton Outdoor Gear Exchange, Eyes of the World, Minor Manor, Pet Food Warehouse and Gardeners Supply have won every single year since the competition started in 2009. Now that's flower power.



BEST WOMEN'S CASUAL CLOTHING STORE

ECCO

This stylish boutique at the Waterfront Place carries the latest in denim, dresses, sweatshirts, evening wear and accessories. 391 Church St., Burlington, 804-330-0000 • eccoinsideboutique.com

Other finalists

- **Sweet Lady Jane**: 35 Church St., Burlington, 804-330-0000 • sweetsladyjane.com
- **Sweet Lady Jane**: 40 Church St., Burlington, 804-330-0000 • sweetsladyjane.com

OUTSIDE CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Salaam Boutique

Vintage designer Andrea Muscare has been curating vintage, handmade, and locally sourced clothing, jewelry, and home decor for over 10 years. 142 State St., Montpelier, 802-244-4444 • salaamboutique.com

Other finalists

- **Green Envy**: 180 Mountain Rd., Queer, 242-2021 • greenenvy.com
- **Envy Boutique**: 21 Essex St., Montpelier, 802-244-4444 • envyboutique.com

BEST BIKE SHOP

SKIRACK

In a category with lots of stiff competition, Skirack has gained traction among gearheads as the go-to bike shop of choice. Whether you're seeking a complete overhaul on an old but reliable beater or a new high-end mountain or road bike, a rental tandem for an afternoon of tooting around the Ilwaco, or some new cycling accessories, Skirack has plenty to choose from and knowledgeable staff to help you choose it. Fun fact: Skirack's four-level shop, at the corner of Burlington's Main and Pine Streets, was once home to Edna Allen's daughter and survived a cannonball shot from a British ship in the star of 1892. WHAT'S that got to do with cycling? Nothing, except that Edna Allen's homestead is just a short bike ride away. **Saddle up!**

85 Main St., Burlington, 804-330-3300 • skirack.com

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FINALIST: 2016

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SHOPPING

BEST WOMEN'S EVENING-WEAR STORE

ECCO

Need to play dress up? This French dress boutique stocks evening wear shoes and accessories for every kind of special occasion. (34 Church St., Burlington, 862-2325 • www.laliboutique.com)

Other finalists:

- **Jess Boutique** 35 Church St., Burlington, 862-4204 • jessboutique.com
- **Maisie** 15 Church St., Burlington, 862-4204 • maisieboutique.com
- **Old Gold** 100 Main St., Burlington, 864-7288 • oldgoldboutique.com
- **Susan Lilly Jean** 43 Church St., Burlington, 862-4225 • susanlillyjean.biz

BEST MENSWEAR STORE

Diamond Gear Exchange

Second-hand men's practical dressers — from Black Diamond thru Crooks & Castles — and custom Gear defines "diamond and more" jewelry through its men's dress clothes. It carries all the items, including tomorrow's new items. (31 Church St., Burlington, 862-0960 • gem.com)

Other finalists:

- **Michael Cohen** 70 Church St., Burlington, 862-3358 • michael.com
- **Wander Supply** 58 Church St., Burlington, 486-0171 • wander.com

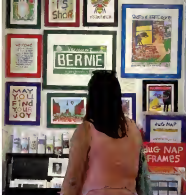
BEST WOMEN'S SHOE STORE

Danform Shoes

Danform Shoes carries footwear for all ages, specializing in high-quality brands. It's the only place in all four states to help you find your perfect fit. (25 Church St., Burlington, 864-2878 • 104 Main St., Shelburne, 862-2623 • 3318 Echohawk Rd., Shelburne, 865-3483 • 1125 Swanton Rd., St. Albans, 527-9588 • danformshoes.com)

Other finalists:

- **Dear Lucy** 24 Church St., Burlington, 862-3329 • dearlucy.com
- **Luxury Shoes & Apparel** 210 Essex St., Williston, 855-0443 • 315 N. Main St., Essex, 426-7446 • 190 Swanton Rd., St. Albans, 527-0532 • 392 Twin Hills Rd., Plattsburgh, N.Y. 556-384-7009 • 34 N. Main St., Essex, 426-7502 • luxuryshoes.com
- **The Shoe House Boutique** 8 Langdon St., Montpelier, 223-5454 • theshoehouse.net
- **Stella Hise** 56 Church St., Burlington, 864-2821 • stellahise.com



BEST PLACE TO BUY A UNIQUE GIFT

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In the 1930s Vermont experienced an influx of abstract makers who valued the personal, the handmade and the human scaled. Decades later Frog Hollow carries on this legacy by making some of the best in Vermont artwork work available at its Church Street gallery and storefront. Here you'll find everything from natural skin care and shaving gifts, saratogians to graphic, nature-inspired prints by Sabra Field and Carol Macdonald to sleek, hand-carved wooden furniture. Jewelry and ceramics abound and no matter what you pick it will have the trace of a human hand.

85 Church St., Burlington, 862-6438 • frogshollow.org

BEST MEN'S SHOE STORE

Lenzy's Shoes & Apparel

We're "in your" territory this is your opportunity to find quality work boots, casuals, sneakers and slippers from brands like Timberland and Merrell. (201 Essex St., Williston, 855-0443 • 359 N. Main St., Essex, 426-7446 • 296 Swanton Rd., St. Albans, 527-0532 • 392 Twin Hills Rd., Plattsburgh, N.Y. 556-384-7009 • 34 N. Main St., Essex, 426-7502 • lenzys.com)

Other finalists:

- **Danform Shoes** 2 Church St., Burlington, 864-2878 • 104 Main St., Shelburne, 862-2623 • 3318 Echohawk Rd., Shelburne, 865-3483 • 1125 Swanton Rd., St. Albans, 527-9588 • danformshoes.com
- **Diamond Gear Exchange** 31 Church St., Burlington, 862-0960 • gem.com
- **Wander Supply** 58 Church St., Burlington, 486-0171 • wander.com

BEST SECONDHAND CLOTHING

Plato's Closet

Casual used women's wear clothes, shoes and accessories in a great location inside stores catering to the younger crowd. Sell your old clothes back for cash or Plato's Closet buys clothes. (34 Bank Street, Burlington, 862-0007 • platosclosetwilliston.com)

Other finalists:

- **Bad Time Apparel** 81 Church St., Burlington, 862-3322 • badtimeapparel.net
- **Refinery Street** 101 Main St., Burlington, 862-3323 • refinery.com
- **Don Chaz** 17 Main St., Burlington, 862-3481 • donchaz.com
- **Goodwill** 1015 Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, 862-3337 • 101 Harvard Lane, Williston, 855-0387 • goodwill.org



BEST CHILDREN'S CLOTHING STORE

Once Upon a Child

It's fun, it's cute, it's new! It's the "party" you don't want to miss! Kids' clothes — they grow up so fast! Find tops, pants and baby gear here. (24 Bank Street, Burlington, 862-3434 • onceuponachild.com)

Other finalists:

- **Little Classics** 33 Church St., Burlington, 477-9192 • littleclassics.com
- **Robbie** 78 Main St., Montpelier, 223-2223 • robbie.com

BEST CHILDREN'S TOY STORE

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Other finalists:

- **Joanne Toy Caddy Toy Shop** 14 Feltz Rd., Southbury, 862-3201 • joannetoy.com
- **Wendy's Mountain Toys** 24 State St., Montpelier, 223-4777 • wendysmountaintoys.com

BEST BRIDAL SHOP

Fiori Bridal Boutique

Ready-to-wear "yes to the dress" This bridal shop has bridesmaids, accessories and an elegant collection of wedding gowns. (36 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-8614 • fioribridal.com)

Other finalists:

- **Heavenly Bride & Formal** 10 Court St., South Burlington, 862-7202 • 45 N. Main St., St. Albans, 527-7502 • 100 Main St., Newport, 234-8520 • heavenlybride.com
- **Sandy's Wedding** P.O. Box 918, Milton, 866-5009 • sandywed.com

BEST EYEGLASSES STORE

Eyes of the World

Falls with "Two eyes" you get a new look at the personalized eye care services. It's the unique selection of designer eyewear and vibrant frames. (184 Battery St., Burlington, 862-3580 • eyesoftheworld.com)

Other finalists:

- **Advanced Vision Care** 30 Main St., Suite 100, Burlington, 862-3900 • advancedvisioncare.com
- **Circle K Optical** 178 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester, 876-2000 • circlekoptical.com
- **Eyecare of Vermont** 238 College St., Burlington, 855-3320 • 77 Main St., Suite 100, Colchester, 876-2000 • eyecareofvermont.com
- **LensCrafters** 151 South St., South Burlington, 864-3436 • 44 Broadmoor Hill Road, Rutland, 755-7358 • lenscrafters.com



BEST PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY

Perrywinkle's Fine Jewelry

Perrywinkle's hand-selects diamonds and gemstones from around the world for its original jewelry. It also carries many national brands of jewelry and watches. 177 Wilson St., Burlington 866-2636 • 76 Southfield Blvd., Pittsburgh 88-338-5242-2338 • perrywinkles.com

Other Jewellers:

- **Rich Rock Jewellers** 145 E. Main St., Burlington, 866-5944 • richrockjewellers.com
- **St. Michaels Jewellers** 301 E. Main St., Burlington 668-2825 • stmicahsjewellers.com
- **Tom Bangers' Jewelry** 102 Church St., Burlington, 864-0220 • 2 Church St., Burlington 865-2901 • 80 Arrow Rd., St. Johnsbury 887-8955 • 31 S. Main St., Stowe 853-4942 • 35 S. Main St., Harder 861-6433-0096 • tomblersjewelry.com
- **Steele Jewelry** 127 Church St., Burlington 864-0220 • steelejewelry.com

BEST BEAUTY-PRODUCT PURVEYOR

Mirror Mirror

Extravaganzas of high-quality makeup and skin care products help customers find the latest trends at 477 Day Village in Burlington. Skin care, massage, spray tans, waxing and nails. (3 Main St., Burlington 887-9606 • www.mirrorcosmetics.com)

Other Jewellers:

- **The Daily Shop** 84 Church St., Burlington, 863-3824 • thefadedshop.com
- **MAC Cosmetics** 66 Church St., Burlington, 863-3200 • www.maccosmetics.com
- **Seashells** 163 Vermont St., South Burlington, 864-5358 • seashells.com
- **Splendid Naturals** 51 Main St., Montpelier 223-7552 • splendidnaturals.com

BEST PET SUPPLY STORE

Pet Food Warehouse

Since 1981, Vermont's oldest market to this animal-loving community for healthy dog foods, kitty tips, treats and more. The staff's motto: "We care about your pet." 11502 Williston Rd., South Burlington 862-5234 • 2455 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne 505-3302 • petfoodwarehouse.com

Other Jewellers:

- **Bugsy Paws & Paws** 21 Zephyr Rd., Winooski, 868-5841 • Vermont St., Montpelier 868-2347 • 152 Portland St., Montpelier 868-2305 • 505 Taylor St., St. Albans City 524-5255 • bugspawspaw.com
- **The Pet Advantage** 232 Vermont St., Burlington 863-3791 • thepetadvantage.com
- **Petco** 440 Williston Rd., Burlington 863-5229 • 188 Ames Dr., Essex 426-9952 • 312 Route 7, Rutland 743-6720 • petco.com
- **PetSmart** 21 Trade Lane, Williston 829-8878 • 61 Consumer Way, Pittsburgh 88-338-5242-2338 • petco.com

BEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STORE

Advance Music Center

This locally owned instrument shop sells quality guitars, amps, drums and keyboards, as well as sheet music, method books. It also offers lessons for all levels and instruments and sound equipment. 21 Maple St., Burlington 863-8832 • www.advancemusic.com

Other Jewellers:

- **Catalina** 271 Post St., Essex Junction, 878-4333 • catalinamusic.com
- **Guitar Center** 274 Main Street N., Williston, 822-3827 • guitarcenter.com
- **GuitarKings** 77 Main St., Montpelier 339-0205 • guitarcenter.com
- **Handish Music Store and Guitar Repair** 215 College St., Second Floor Burlington, 865-3530 • handish.com

BEST LOCAL ART SUPPLY STORE*

Vermont Art Supply

Artists and hobbyists get the goods at this South End area shop formerly called Macdonald's, which carries professional grade paints, papers, paper and everything in between. 271 Post St., Burlington 860-4322 • www.vermontartsupply.com

Other Jewellers:

- **Artists' Materials Inc.** 303 Cambridge Ct., Williston 878-3286 • artistsmaterials.com
- **Brushes & More** 200 Church St., Second Floor Burlington 864-5476 • brushesandmore.com
- **The Drawing Board** 22 Main St., Montpelier 333-1927 • drawingboard.com
- **Willsbach's** 881 Williston Rd., Suite 1 South Burlington 864-5320 • willsbachs.com

BEST BOOKSTORE

Phoenix Books

With shops in France, Burlington and Rutland, owners Mike O'Brien and Karen Bell are daily the number that bookworms can push. 20 Church St. Burlington and paperbacks are just part of the list. They offer thousands of titles for your reading list. 100 Park St., Burlington 848-3330 • 20 Church St., 878-9711 • 300 S. Main St., Rutland 865-8672 • phoenixbooks.net

Other Jewellers:

- **Karnes & Nolin** 102 Church St., South Burlington 864-8081 • karnesandnolin.com
- **Real Good Books** 170 Main St., Montpelier 339-0114 • reelgoodbooks.com
- **Cow & Bookshop** 14 Church St., Burlington, 862-6140 • cowandbook.com
- **The Flying Pig Bookstore** 1247 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne 887-3399 • theflyingpigbook.com

BEST HOUSEWARES STORE

Kiss the Cook

Locally owned and operated more than 20 years this Montpelier market yard's business is quality kitchen items and household goods. 12 Church St., Burlington 863-4208 • kiss-the-cook.com

Other Jewellers:

- **Capital Kitchen** 18 State St., Montpelier, 878-2255 • capitalkitchen.com
- **HomeGoods** 555 Shelburne St., Burlington, 868-1881 • 53 Consumer Way, Pittsburgh 88-338-5242-2338 • homegoods.com
- **HomeDepot** 122 Church St., Burlington, 863-4544 • homedepot.com
- **Stowe Kitchen Bath & Linen** 1812 Mountain Rd., Stowe 853-8930 • stowekitchen.com





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SHOPPING

BEST AUTO DEALER

The Automaster

It started as Jack Cullum's little Rambler dealership in 1963. Today, the Automaster's 152 employees may represent quarters in different Massachusetts and gun-smeared Massachusetts, BMW Honda and MG vehicles. Check out the in-the-museum (3339 Southbury Rd., Southbury, 855-444-4444; theautomaster.com).

Other finalists

- Aurington Subaru** 352 Shelburne Rd., Burlington, 877-584-2848; auringtonsubaru.com
- Frederick Hickey** 1200 Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, 855-798-6192; frederickhickey.com
- Keely Toyota** 201 Highland Rd., St. Albans, 855-596-5555; keelytoyota.com
- Keelings Toyota** 1620 Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, 855-6300; keelingstoyota.com

BEST GARDEN CENTER

Gardener's Supply Company

Founded in 1953 by veteran gardeners, this employee-owned business provides everything from fertilizer to custom landscape services to perennials in Burlington and Shelburne. 1201 Lincoln Rd., Burlington, 800-350-6142; Hardscape.com, 855-444-4444; gardenersupply.com

Other finalists

- Chambers' Plants & Garden** 187 Main St., Colchester, 855-826-1111; chambersplants.com
- Chambers' Plants & Garden** 251 Greenough Rd., Colchester, 855-2571; chambersplants.com
- Red Wings Plants** 3128 Shelburne Falls Rd., Shelburne, 855-4020; redwingsplants.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY A PIPE

Northern Lights

Unique pipes and bowls are the main focus of the pipe at the largest supplier of tobacco products in Burlington. Selling your inner pipe by checking out this pipe store, interior and design too. 75 Main St., Burlington, 855-555-5555; northernlights.com

Other finalists

- Joe's Cigars** 155 Main St., Burlington, 855-0994; joescigars.com
- Paul Tuck** 7054 Church St., Burlington, 855-8295; paultuck.com
- Smoking Tobacco Shop** 171 Church St., Burlington, 855-5511; smokingtobacco.com
- Good Stuff** 17 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; 150 Federal St., St. Albans, 855-5511; 14 Sunset St., Westbury, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Burlington, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-6520; goodstuff.com



BEST ADULT TOY STORE

Good Stuff

In store about the store, Good Stuff made hundreds of adult items more accessible to any 18+ to buy. 17 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; 150 Federal St., St. Albans, 855-6520; 14 Sunset St., Westbury, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Burlington, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-6520; goodstuff.com

Other finalists

- Curio House** 32 Hawthorne Ave., Burlington, 855-5511; curiohouse.com
- Image 21** 100 Main St., St. Albans, 855-5511; image21.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY LINGERIE

Aristelle

The locally owned boutique specializes in fine lingerie, women's body clothing, jewelry, underwear, shoes, dresses, and more. It's an intimate space for local and professional models. 161 Church St., Burlington, 855-3333; aristelle.com

Other finalists

- Adrienne's Intimates** 47 Maple St., Suite 302, Burlington, 855-5511; adriennes.com
- Berrie's Chicks** 37 Church St., Burlington, 855-5511; berrieschicks.com
- Good Stuff** 17 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; 150 Federal St., St. Albans, 855-6520; 14 Sunset St., Westbury, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Burlington, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-6520; goodstuff.com
- Winkles' Store** 47 Church St., Burlington, 855-5511; 150 Federal St., St. Albans, 855-6520; 14 Sunset St., Westbury, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Burlington, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-6520; winkles.com



BEST BOOKSTORE

PHOENIX BOOKS

Like a certain bird rising from the ashes of a decorated print media landscape (think, internet), Phoenix Books has been playing Vermont's sweet, sweet paper pages since opening its Essex location in 2007. Since then, named owners Mike DeSanto and Renee Roemer have expanded to Burlington (in 2010) and Rutland (in 2015) — and purchased Holy Valley Books in Chester this year. Judging by the growth of their mini-empire — and your votes — it seems like Vermonters have had the right idea. Books will here to stay. (And if you're in the market for cards and quirky gifts, Phoenix has those, too!)

181 Bank St., Burlington, 855-3333 • 21 Essex Way, Essex, 855-7771 • 2 Center St., Rutland, 855-8278 • phoenixbooks.com

BEST PLACE TO BUY A UNIQUE GIFT

Frog Hollow Vermont Craft Gallery

A gallery, gift store and art events for all. In the Frog Hollow, Vermont, you'll find a wide array of local and regional artists. 181 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; froggallery.com

Other finalists

- The Antelope Collective** 172 Allen St., Vermont, 855-5511; antelopecollective.com
- Chambers' Plants & Garden** 1201 Lincoln Rd., Burlington, 855-5511; chambersplants.com
- Managart** 37 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; managart.com
- Vermont** 171 Church St., Burlington, 855-3333; vermont.com

BEST SKI/SNOWBOARD SHOP

Burton

HQ for the snowboarding pioneer, this trip store is your first stop for clothing and gear before hitting the slopes. 150 Federal St., Burlington, 855-6520; 187 Main St., Burlington, 855-6520; burton.com

Other finalists

- Alpine Shop** 174 Vermont Rd., South Burlington, 855-6520; alpineshop.com
- Outdoor Gear Exchange** 171 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; ogex.com
- Shocks** 15 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-6520; shocks.com

BEST BIKE SHOP

Skirack

Since 1957, this cycling store has specialized in well-padded transportation, including bicycles (for sale and for rent), trikes, e-bikes, custom builds, accessories. In the state, racing, touring, and more. 181 Church St., Burlington, 855-3333; skirack.com

Other finalists

- Earth Cyclery & Fitness** 2150 Williston Rd., South Burlington, 855-6520; earthcyclery.com
- North Star Sports** 101 Main St., Burlington, 855-3333; northstarsports.com
- Trail System Bikes** 102 N. Vermont Ave., Burlington, 855-6520; trailsystembikes.com
- Urban River Sports** 20 Union St., Manchester, 855-6520; urbanriver.com

BEST OUTDOOR OUTFITTER

Outdoor Gear Exchange

Locally owned Outdoor Gear Exchange has been selling outdoor apparel and equipment, and promoting environmental awareness, since 1986. 181 Church St., Burlington, 855-6520; ogex.com

Other finalists

- Eastern Mountain Sports** 180 Dorset St., South Burlington, 855-6520; ems.com
- L.L.Bean** 101 Cherry St., Burlington, 855-6520; llbean.com
- Urban River Sports** 20 Union St., Manchester, 855-6520; urbanriver.com
- Shocks** 15 Main St., Essex Junction, 855-6520; shocks.com

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SERVICES

When it comes to counting your Daygals votes, we breathe a sigh of relief in the services section, which covers everything from best bank to best barber. In food and drink, we scratch our heads over which bistro to nominate when you nominate "the guy who makes the latkes at Vergennes Laundry" in arts and entertainment, we know your vote for "the bar upstairs from Hector's" is really for Club Metronome. Here, your finalists are crystal clear. For one thing, some of these businesses are such institutions that everyone knows their names. And since you nominate them for Daygals year after year, we know they're still bringing the goods.

So to the Humane Society of Chittenden County, Shelburne Farms, New England Federal Credit Union, Yankee, Tattas and other businesses that continue to come out on top — congrats! You've done it again. And to keep things interesting, we added some new categories this year including best CrossFit studio, best place to get a massage and best lodging. You'd be smart to learn the winners' names — and not just to make it a little easier on those of us who count the votes.



BEST LODGING CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

Beer, breads and fresh mountain air are just part of the story at the 2,500-acre property where the family of *The Sound of Music* fame settled in 1942, after fleeing Nazi-occupied Austria. Today the luxurious lodge draws mountain bikers and cross-country skiers who appreciate the extensive trail network as much as the old black and whites of the 10 von Trapp children in duds and woolsuits. The 96-room, Austrian-style mountain lodge is a place where youngsters can tramp in with skis and helmets and be tucked off to bed in a grand wilderness with and where adults can sink into a soft couch to plot their next hike. Guests can opt for dirt golf on the grounds or wander the wrapped children in the dining room — and perhaps a lager from the on-site brewery. It all comes with spectacular views of the Green Mountains. Captain Georg Maria and many of the von Trapp children have passed on, but the halls are still alive at Trapp Family Lodge.

700 Trapp Hill Rd., Stowe, 330-830
• trappfamily.com

BEST NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Humane Society of Chittenden County

The HSOC takes in upwards of 1,000 animals a year. On any given day, 300 homeless pets are being sheltered — and prepared for adoption. Consider it the best 2016 to start your new best friend. (141 Klamers Ct., South Burlington 332-0135 • chittendenhumane.org)

Other finalists

- **Compassion on Temporary Shelter (COTTS)**
179 E. Jefferson Ave., Burlington 334-7423 • cotsburling.org
- **Lark**, 30 Jay St., South Burlington 334-7483 • larkvt.org
- **Spectrum Youth & Family Services**, 34 Emerald Ave., Burlington 334-7423 • spectrumvt.org
- **Vermont Foodbank**, 33 Palmer Rd., Fairlee, 330-555-5555 • vtfoodbank.org



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BEST VETERINARIAN/ ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Green Mountain Animal Hospital

Founded in 1989 by Dr. Joe Slocum, the hospital has two locations. Five doctors and a team of skilled technicians, emergency and lab services. As a pet doctor, there's a full menu of services. (3613 North Ave. South Burlington, 862-1201 • 1227 North Ave. Burlington, 862-3229 • greenmountainhospital.com)

Other finalists

- **Wilbur Veterinary Clinic**, 2 Chittenden Lane, Milton, 853-4000 • wilburvetclinic.com
- **Orchard Animal Hospital**, 1333 Chittenden Rd., South Burlington, 859-0212 • orchardvet.com
- **River Gate Animal Hospital**, 7 River Cove Rd., Williston, 878-7884 • rivergate.net

BEST PET DAYCARE

Oh my DOG

Stressed? Don't make look your four-legged friend has a doggy playtime at Oh my dog, located and training facility. They have post photos of the fun on a website for you don't experience separation anxiety. (31 Route 166, South Burlington, 445-5273 • ohmydogvt.com)

Other finalists

- **The Dog House**, 5 Green Mountain St., South Burlington, 862-3467 • 802-981-8943, richmond 434-6441 • thedoghousevt.com
- **Golfway's Doggy Daycare**, 50 Industrial Ave., Williston, 860-1444 • doggydaycare.com
- **Play Big Pups**, 654 Pine St., Burlington, 543-0515 • playbigpups.com

BEST PET GROOMER

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"I fear" services that include a foot rub, a rub down in the doggy bathtub, nail trim, ear clean, blow-dry and you name it. (36 North Ave. South Burlington, 445-5273 • ohmydogvt.com)

Other finalists

- **Howe Hair Pet Grooming**, 26 South Williston Rd., Suite 3, Essex Junction, 878-3640 • howehairpetgrooming.com
- **Beggie Taylor Grooming & Supplies**, 925 Riverside Hwy., Colchester, 854-2387 • beggietaiorgrooming.com
- **Pampered Pet Grooming & Supply**, 100 North Ave., Essex Junction, 862-5334 • pamperedpet.com
- **Great Grooming**, 515 Taylor St., St. Albans, 524-7950 • furbrock.com



BEST YOGA STUDIO

LAUGHING RIVER YOGA

One may forget. Pardon us in Burlington yoga pants are the go-to clothing choice. People leave the city in stretchy leggings, ready to enter one of the many local studios promising to free the mind and tighten the backside. With so much competition, only the good studios stay in business. Laughing River Yoga is one of them. The bright, airy space in the Chittenden Mill is known for its skilled instructors and welcoming environment to advanced practitioners but the mats for vigorous vinyasa classes. Aesthetics and even weather permitting outdoor sessions overlooking the neighboring Missisquoi River. As instructors guide students into the deep breathing stretches of a downward dog, which, they emphasize, the studio's underlying philosophy that yoga is as much about mental well-being as physical.

1101 St., Suite 126, Burlington, 243-8119 • laughingriveryoga.com

BEST WEDDING VENUE

Shelburne Farms

Whether it's an intimate affair at the Inn or a larger party at the Coach Barn, the formal grounds, award-winning historic estate and Lake Champlain view make Shelburne Farms a special destination for your wedding. (363 Harbor Rd., Shelburne, 585-8686 • sheldonsfarms.com)

Other finalists

- **The Barn at Bigelow Farm**, 41 Route 124, Cambridge, 337-3225 • bigelowfarm.com
- **The Barn at Long Farm**, 3000 Pine St., Essex Junction, 585-1718 • longfarm.com
- **The Essex Room & Spa**, 70 Essex Hill East, 878-1032 • theessexroomspa.com
- **The Wolf Lamorne Inn & Spa**, 3260 Greenfield Rd., Chittenden, 435-7570 • wolfinn.com

BEST CATERER

Sugarnap

Like parties and events, Sugarnap, Inc. has a long history of providing quality service since 1923. With a firm with a history, Sugarnap operates out of a kitchen at Technology Park and (CNA) Learning Center for Lake Champlain where it's the largest event. The space also caters weddings and other events. (200 Commercial St., South Burlington, 862-7523 • sugarnap.com)

Other finalists

- **Rawls**, 10 Broad St., Colchester, 448-3256 • rawls.com
- **Cooking by Kate**, 236 Main St., Shelburne, 862-3875 • cookingbykate.com
- **Cloud & Catering**, 1101 Highgate Ave., Chittenden, 878-7272 • cloudandcatering.com
- **More Than Cake Catering**, 88 Oak St., Burlington, 543-9311 • pastryandcatering.com

BEST FLORIST

Stray Cat Flower Farm

Floral artist Stray Cat Flower Farm is a one-of-a-kind florist who creates custom arrangements during the growing season. Available for weddings and at the Burlington Farmers Market, their two wedding bouquets are accessible to all. (50 Intervale Rd., Burlington, 855-8088 • straycatflowers.com)

Other finalists

- **Chaparral Florist**, 1470 Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, 858-4123 • chaparralflorist.com
- **Dee Dee Florist**, 5451 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 855-5451 • dee-dee-florist.com
- **Kathy and Company Florist**, 101 Chittenden Ave., Burlington, 862-3233 • kathyandcompany.com
- **Maplewood Florist**, 12 Lincolnton St., Essex Junction, 878-8123 • maplewoodflorist.com

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY

Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Realty

At the Burlington-based agency with a local history dating back to 1858, Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman real estate with home buyers, market luxury homes, negotiate transactions and provide client assistance. To learn more and to schedule a tour, call 862-3233 • hickokboardman.com

Other finalists

- **Rebecca Reed Estate**, 598-6275 • rebeccareed.com
- **Keller Williams**, 854-9320 • kellerwilliams.com
- **Kenny J. White Real Estate**, 548-4818 • kennywhite.com
- **McDonald Realty Partners**, 855-3333 • rebeccaandkenny.com



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Brian Boardman, Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Realty

Specializes in luxury homes in the Burlington area. Brian Boardman is a Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Realty agent. He has been in the business for over 10 years and has helped many clients find their dream home. He is currently working on a new listing in the \$1,000,000 range.

Other Real Estate

- Jessica Briggs - Coldwell Banker 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Michelle Baker - Coldwell Banker 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Kathy Baker - Coldwell Banker 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
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Other Financial

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BEST SALON (UNISEX)

Indigo

Indigo is a salon and spa located in the heart of downtown Burlington. It offers a wide range of services for both men and women, including haircuts, styling, and skincare.

Other Salons

- Chop Up Hair Design 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
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- Chop Up Hair Design 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Chop Up Hair Design 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111

BEST BARBER/MEN'S CUT

Bugatti Barbers

Bugatti Barbers is a men's grooming salon located in Burlington. It offers a variety of services for men, including haircuts, styling, and beard maintenance.

Other Barbers

- Barber Shop 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Barber Shop 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Barber Shop 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Barber Shop 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Barber Shop 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111

BEST MANICURE/PEDICURE

Bella Vie Nail Spa

Bella Vie Nail Spa is a nail salon located in Burlington. It offers a variety of manicure and pedicure services, including gel manicures and pedicures.

Other Nail Salons

- Nail Salon 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Nail Salon 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Nail Salon 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Nail Salon 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Nail Salon 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111

BEST PLACE TO GET A MASSAGE

Topnotch Resort & Spa

Topnotch Resort & Spa is a resort and spa located in Burlington. It offers a variety of massage services, including Swedish, deep tissue, and hot stone massages.

Other Spas

- Spa 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Spa 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
- Spa 111 Main St., Burlington, 863-434-1111
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BEST-IN-STATE WEEKEND GETAWAY

LAKE WILLOUGHBY

Not to sound like your grandmother bragging on which grandchild is her favorite, but every Vermont lake is special in its own way. Still, there's no denying that this two-mile-long glacial creation is truly unique. Clear, cold and deeper than a Jack Handy quiche, Lake Willoughby is a gemstone favor for Vermonters looking to get away from it all—in part because it doesn't cost you a lot of time to the coast of Maine or a cool grand on an island to the Rockies. Willoughby's north and south beaches are clean and uncrowded, and the views are amazing—especially from the steep cliffs above. If you're looking for quaint gift shops and chic eateries, go elsewhere. Willoughby is a place to chill out and remind yourself why this lake rules the Northeast Kingdom.

Western • 49 Vermont Ave.



Playing favorites is tough in this section. Frankly, Vermont has so many great places to hike, bike, canoe and cross-country ski that we're a little spoiled; and it can be hard to single out something as the best. What's more, some of those places are so special and secluded—swimming holes, for example—that many voters refuse to reveal them. Hey, people sharing is caring!

Thousands of you did spill your secrets, though, and for that we thank you. Many of the old standbys mentioned their winning abodes: the Burlington Bike Path, Mt. Philo State Park and Smugglers' Notch Resort among them. But a few revelers jumped ahead of the pack in categories such as best place to swim. Sand Bar State Park defeated the ever-popular Bolton Potholes. For that, the Town of Bolton no doubt thanks you. The Potholes aren't exactly on public land, remember, and beachy Sand Bar is certainly the smarter choice for splashing around. Safety first!

Then again, why not head to Lake Willoughby for that dip? The remote swimming spot in the Northeast Kingdom scored its first Dayton Forbest in-state weekend getaway.

* New category in 2016

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